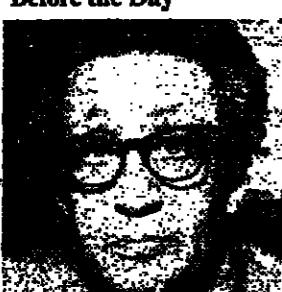


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Stuart Jones analyses the
cup draws in Europe

Russia puts a stop to Start

The Soviet Union refused to set a date for the resumption of the strategic arms reduction talks in Geneva. The deployment of US missiles in Europe was given as the reason for the suspension of the negotiations.

None meeting, page 6

Opec agrees to hold oil price

Opec has agreed to continue the present price and production agreement and will confirm today in Geneva that its prices should remain unchanged for at least 12 months. The decision will remove much of the uncertainty from world financial markets.

Earlier report, page 17

Lords TV vote

The House of Lords has carried by 74 votes to 24 a motion for the experimental televising of its proceedings.

Parliament, page 4

It's Carrington

None Foreign Minister yesterday unanimously appointed Lord Carrington to succeed Dr Joseph Luns of The Netherlands as Secretary-General. He takes over next June.

Leading article, page 15

Britons missing

Two British businessmen have disappeared from their Paris hotels, the British Embassy there confirmed. Both were last seen on December 1. Page 6

New year curb

Trafalgar Square's fountains are to be drained and boarded up on New Year's Eve to prevent a repetition of last year's crush, which killed two women. Page 3

Plane search

The RAF joined coastguards last night in searching for an aircraft carrying eight passengers from Liverpool which went out of radio contact shortly before it was due at Stornoway, Hebrides.

Drug profits cut

Cuts in the profits that drug companies make from the health service and in the amount spent on advertising have been announced by the Government.

Page 2

Rapist's choice

One of three men convicted of rape in the United States and told by a judge to choose between 30 years in prison and castration said he would prefer to be castrated. Page 8

Bowling change

A proposal requiring counties to bow a minimum of 117 overs in a full day's championship cricket will be put to the TCCB at Lord's on Tuesday. Page 22

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Letters: On way of the Cross, from the Archbishop of York, parole, from Mrs S McCabe; Ulster murder, from Mr W McDowell

Leading articles: Lord Carrington and Nato; Calke Abbey
Features, pages 12-14

Why the Government needs PR professionals; Winning in spite of themselves; Bernard Levin on freezing out the urban terrorist; David Watt asks what's left when the nuclear dust has settled; Spectrum: Kenya 20 years after independence. Friday page: Drowning in a sea of debt

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Syria seeks Soviet troops pledge as warning to Reagan

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

air missile batteries installed at three sites early this year.

Syria has asked the Soviet Union to revise their strategic cooperation agreement so that Soviet ground troops could be sent to Damascus if the Syrian Army has to withstand a big military assault in Lebanon.

Until now it has been generally assumed that the Russians would intervene militarily only if Syrian sovereign territory were attacked, but officials in Damascus are making no secret that they would like to revise the terms of the pact, in the words of a government spokesman, "to meet the imbalance resulting from the Israeli-American strategic agreement".

Syria's request to Moscow is intended as a warning to President Reagan, whose new cooperation agreement with Israel is viewed with the gravest concern in Damascus. Syria's fear that it may face a joint US-Israeli attack is genuinely felt, despite President Reagan's insistence that the Americans are not looking for a battle with Syria.

There are up to 6,000 Soviet military personnel in Syria. Most of them are advisers and the remainder constitute the crews for the Sam 5 ground-to

forces, the differentiation you mention makes no difference."

Moscow may prefer to leave things as they stand with Damascus, and it is important to realize that the Syrians do not intend to request the presence of Soviet troops on their soil before any military attack should take place.

They are following their usual practice of steadily increasing the stakes in the Middle East, in the hope of making their potential enemies think twice about military adventures. Syria also likes to publicize its independence from the Soviet Union and would probably seek direct Russian assistance only as a last resort.

Nevertheless, if they can include such support in the event of fighting in Lebanon, then the Syrians will have substantially increased the risk of a superpower confrontation, as they believe the United States has done by forging a strategic agreement with Israel.

The daily fighting in which US Marines are involved in Beirut airport came under sustained rocket, mortar and small-arms fire again yesterday morning and fought off their

Continued on back page, col 1



Pressure mounts in Israel to kill or capture Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli threat to the evacuation of Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, from Tripoli was intensified yesterday when Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, announced that suggestions he should be killed or captured were now under consideration by his Government.

Strict military censorship is being employed to prevent reporters discussing the military and naval options open to the Israelis. The anti-Arafat atmosphere has been encouraged by a number of powerful cartoons in the local press, one showing him riding on the charred shell of the Israeli bus wrecked in Tuesday's PLO bomb jubilantly waving the United Nations flag.

Speaking yesterday after visiting the survivors in hospital, Mr Shamir was asked for his response to the call from Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, for the "physical liquidation" of Mr Arafat. "We are considering all the ways of action", he replied.

He bitterly attacked the evacuation plan due to get under way in the next 48 hours.

"I think it is the subject for the most extreme condemnation of the UN, whose purpose is to safeguard peace and which is giving its protection to such a murderous organization which claims responsibility for this crime," he said.

Ministers have denied that the Cabinet agreed to allow Mr Arafat safe passage as part of last month's prisoner exchange with the PLO. Asked if there had been a decision not to block his departure, Mr David Levy, the deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday: "I did not say there had been a decision; nor can I give even a hint that there has been a decision to the contrary. There are matters for which the best response is silence."

Meanwhile, the bus attack has prompted outspoken condemnation of a PLO terrorist action by radical Palestinian

leaders from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Their unexpected move was hailed by Mr Shamir as a "positive trend" and by the opposition Labour Party as possibly the first sign of a wish for coexistence by the West Bank Arabs.

The leaders who signed the statement deplored the attack were Mr Karim Khalil, deposed Mayor of Ramallah who was imprisoned in the 1980 car bomb attack officially blamed on Jewish extremism; Mr Mustafa Natsheh, deposed Mayor of Hebron; Mr Anvar Nusseibeh, chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Company, and the publisher and editor of the pro-PLO Arabic language daily *Al Jadid*.

● NEW YORK: An Israeli request to stop the UN flag being flown on ships evacuating the PLO from Tripoli has been denied by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General (Zoriana Pyšarišky writes).

NGA may call all-out strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Graphical Association are considering an all-out strike which would halt publication of national and local newspapers if peace talks fail to resolve the union's closed-shop dispute with Mr Selim ("Eddie") Shah's Messinger Group.

The NGA national council has been called into emergency session in Bedford tomorrow to determine the union's next step if negotiations with Mr Shah collapse.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the 133,000-strong craft print union, said last night after talks with the TUC general secretary, Mr Len Murray, that the dispute "could spread into every area of the industry".

This could happen if peace moves by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) fail to yield a settlement or if Mr Shah breaks off the talks.

Officials of the NGA went to the London headquarters of Acas last night for a fourth successive night of negotiations conducted at arm's length through conciliators.

They went into the peace process deeply pessimistic about the prospect of a deal to end the 23-week-old conflict with the Stockport-based Messinger Group over NGA claims for a closed shop and the reinstatement of six dismissed print workers.

The Times understands that the plans have been drawn up for a national strike in the printing and newspaper industry as the NGA's "final filing" of opposition to the operation of the Government's new labour laws.

Its opposition has already cost it £150,000 in fines for contempt of court orders not to interfere with the production of Mr Shah's newspapers.

Continued on page 2, col 2

Last phone strikers sent back to work

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office Engineering Union last night called off the final phase of its industrial action against government plans to sell off British Telecom and effectively signalled its battle to halt the sale.

A special meeting of the union's executive decided to send back to work 1,400 telephone engineers in the international exchanges in London who have been on strike for two months in a dispute which last month threatened to thrust the union into direct conflict with the Government's labour laws.

The union backed down from that confrontation and since its delegate conference last month has decided to send back to work all engineers who had been either on strike or locked out in the campaign of industrial action.

Mr Bryan Stanley, the union's general secretary, said last night: "The union now has a period to examine and rebuild

its resources ready for the many battles we will have to fight in the new year."

In spite of Mr Stanley's brave words, the union, which has a left-dominated executive, has decided that the cost of the industrial action was prohibitive when compared with the results. It was clear to yesterday's meeting that the action had had a minimal effect on the highly automated exchanges selected as targets.

The campaign, during which the union paid normal wages to the 2,500 strikers, cost more than £2.5m and the union had by the start of this week already used an interest-free £500,000 loan from the Union of Communication Workers.

The union's conference decided last month not to defy recent labour legislation and the Government will view the union's decision as a victory in its programme to reduce the size and influence of the public sector.

Drink-drive loophole is blocked

By John Witherow

A potential loophole in the law which could have cleared thousands of motorists facing drink-drive charges and forced the police to revise their latest breath testing machines was blocked in the High Court yesterday.

The divisional court overturned a finding by magistrates in Basingstoke, Hampshire, that the print-out from a Lion Intoximeter 3000 machine was not admissible in drink-driving cases.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that the magistrates had been wrong to clear Mr Russell Marlow, aged 26, an engineer, of driving with excess alcohol. The magistrates' court decided that the print-out, which had shown Mr Marlow to have been three times over the legal limit, was inadmissible as a statement because it was not intelligible to the average person.

that the matter was of sufficient public importance.

The Hampshire police appeal against the magistrates' ruling has led to thousands of drink-drive cases being adjourned and an increase in the number of motorists pleading not guilty. Many of these cases will now be heard and, no doubt, pleas will be changed.

The High Court ruling will be particularly welcomed by the police as they launch their Christmas campaign against drink driving and driving.

The Royal Automobile Club said it was not surprised by the decision but was concerned over the accuracy of the Intoximeters, of which 645 have been distributed to 39 police forces since last May.

Lord Lane said that Mr Marlow, of Britten Road, Basingstoke, had been stopped while driving his car on May 11 this year. A breath-test on the

Intoximeter showed a reading of 111 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, almost three times the legal limit of 35 microgrammes.

At a hearing in September, the magistrates agreed with Mr Marlow's counsel that the print-out was inadmissible because it was not a statement under the Transport Act, 1981.

However, Lord Lane said the magistrates should have looked at the whole print-out strip, which included an explanation of the coded figures. "We are dealing with the real world and not a fanciful world", he told the court. "In my judgment it is abundantly clear to anyone in his senses precisely what the document meant. Taken as a whole it is plainly intelligible."

Mr Marlow said afterwards that he was disappointed and claimed that the Intoximeter reading was wildly inaccurate because he had drunk hardly any alcohol.

Law Report, page 10

America to lift Argentine arms embargo

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Despite British misgivings, President Reagan yesterday announced it was taking the necessary legal steps to end the five-year ban on US arms sales to Argentina.

The State Department said President Reagan would certify to Congress tomorrow that Argentina has made "dramatic progress" in human rights in the past year and a half and therefore the arms embargo imposed in 1978 could be lifted.

The certification has been deliberately timed to coincide with the inauguration of President Raúl Alfonsín in Buenos Aires. Vice-President George Bush is to attend the inauguration ceremony of the democratically elected President.

British diplomats reacted cautiously to yesterday's announcement and expressed the hope that any arms sales would only involve spare parts and defensive equipment.

They recalled that last month Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said the US would not provide sophisticated equipment which could be used to attempt a new invasion of the Falkland Islands.

The State Department spokesman himself pointed out that the US has traditionally never been a major supplier of arms to Argentina.

The terms in which yesterday's announcement was couched went some way to allay British fears about a resumption of arms sales to Argentina, which attacked the Falklands last year.

British objections to US arms sales had been frequently voiced during the past year, most particularly by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Continued on back page, col 1

British Government kept in picture

By Julian Huppert, Political Editor

British ministers were wholly untroubled last night by the expected news that Argentina had been re-certified as a potential purchaser of United States arms.

But because they are aware of public anxiety about the Falklands and more generally about the present state of relations between Washington and London, they went out of their way to emphasize that in this area at least the Administration had been exemplary in consulting them.

A lengthy statement from Downing Street pointed out that re-certification did not mean that arms sales were either in the pipeline or planned in any way, and was not equivalent to arms sales.

There was a "wide gap" between agreeing certification which would allow arms to be sold and actually reaching any agreement on arms sales themselves.

● BRUSSELS: Britain would "obviously express concern" to the US if the American administration were to sell any weapons to Argentina which could be used in a war against the Falkland Islands. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Sec-

retary said yesterday (Ian Murray reports).

But he emphasized that the US was still a long way from making any decision about actually selling weapons to the new Argentine Government.

He said that the Administration had to review its relations with Argentina in the light of the human rights situation in that country and see whether or not it could properly continue to impose a ban on arms sales there on grounds that human rights were not being observed.

There was a "wide gap" between agreeing certification which would allow arms to be sold and actually reaching any agreement on arms sales themselves.

● CHILEAN DOUBTS: A number of other Latin American countries will have misgivings over the US decision, not the least among them being Chile which has a long-standing dispute with Buenos Aires over islands in the Beagle channel. (Henry Stan

Government cuts drug firms profits in £100m NHS savings package

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government announced yesterday cuts in the profits drug companies can make from the National Health Service and reductions in permissible spending on advertising and promotion.

They will produce savings of more than £100m a year on the NHS drugs bill, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said.

The cuts were condemned as unnecessarily harsh by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, which said that they were likely to damage the industry's ability to produce new products.

But Mr Michael Meacher, labour's spokesman on health said that they were inadequate response, and still left the companies with a "a license to print money".

Under the package announced by Mr Clarke the target-rate of profit companies are allowed to make will be cut from 20 to 21 per cent from April 1, saving £40m on the total bill in England of £1,250m.

Also, the "grey area" by which companies are allowed to make higher profits of up to 10 per cent will be reduced.

Drug companies' spending on

promotion, which is now about £180m a year, and largely funded by NHS sales is also to be cut.

It will be reduced from 10 per cent of turnover to 9 per cent from 1985/86. Spending above that level will have to be paid back - in effect a fine on promotional overspending.

When fully implemented that should cut promotional expenditure by 25 per cent, Mr Clarke said.

In a full year the measures will produce savings on the NHS drugs bill rising on present estimates from £65m in 1984/5 to well over £100m in later years.

This compares with the industry's total profits from sales in the UK in 1983 of an estimated £200m. The changes will mean that the price freeze on drugs introduced in August as part of the £25m savings agreed then will continue, with few exceptions, through 1984/5 and beyond.

The Government has decided against allowing pharmacists to substitute cheaper, unbranded drugs for brand name products when dispensing prescriptions, unless the family doctor specifies so. Such a move was

recommended in the Greenfield Report published earlier this year, which it has been estimated could save another £5m to £30m.

Mr Clarke said such a measure would lead to divisions in responsibility for the treatment between family doctors and pharmacists and raised "serious practical problems".

Mr Meacher described the decision as owing more "to the arm twisting of the drug companies than to the concern at the general practitioners behind who Mr Clarke seeks to hide".

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry said that the cuts were "unnecessarily harsh and against the long-term interests of the UK".

Some multinational drug companies were likely to reconsider investing in Britain it said. "The cuts are likely to damage seriously the innovative and export capacity of the industry, currently producing a balance of payments surplus of £600m per annum, and one of the world leaders in pharmaceutical research."

Staff vote of no confidence at Sellafield

The 900 engineering workers at the Sellafield (formerly Windscale) Nuclear Fuels in Cumbria have passed a vote of no confidence in the management because of the contamination incidents in which radioactive material was discharged into the Irish Sea.

Mr Leo Goldsworthy, district organizer for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, confirmed yesterday that a mass meeting of union members earlier this week had voted to condemn the way in which the company had kept workers informed about developments.

No further industrial action is planned by the engineering workers, who complained that they read about the incidents in the press almost at the same time as they were being told about them by the company.

A delegation of union members from Sellafield is to meet Dr John Cunningham, Labour MP for Copeland and Labour spokesman on the environment, today.

A spokesman for the engineering workers said that the latest incident had been so serious that it required assurances in the best interests of the nuclear industry and the public. "We are very unhappy over the management's handling of this business", he said.

British Nuclear Fuels refused to comment on the vote because it was an internal industrial relations matter.

Mr Wedgwood Benn claimed at the Sizewell B inquiry yesterday that "every British nuclear power station has become a nuclear bomb factory for the United States".

Mr Benn, a former energy minister, was giving evidence on day 150 of the hearing at the Snape Maltings in Suffolk into the Central Electricity Generating Board's proposal to build an American-style pressurized water reactor (PWR). He suggested that military requirements coloured the board's plans.

"One of the dominant factors which explains the policy of the board and the Atomic Energy Authority in pressing for the PWR is that there are strong military reasons for doing so and the economic and energy arguments are a cover", he said.

The discussions were very complex and fraught. "That is not to say I am not hopeful we can reach a conclusion. I hope we can reach a settlement of the outstanding issues. Failing that, I hope we will have an agreement to continue the talks over the weekend", Mr Wade said.

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Mr Benn said that he was not criticizing individuals. "In military areas one cannot rely on the truth being told because those who speak are not always properly informed", he said.

At the heart of Mr Benn's claim was his fear that plutonium produced from spent nuclear fuel, if of a suitable high grade, can be used in nuclear weapons manufacture.

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Trafalgar Square fountain revels banned to improve new year safety

Tough safety measures to prevent a repeat of the new year crowd hysteria in Trafalgar Square 12 months ago in which two women died were announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The traditional frolics in the fountains will be banned and Scotland Yard has said that if the crowd gets too big the police may take action.

Mr Brittan, in a written Commons answer, gave an eight-point plan to allow revellers to celebrate the new year in safety.

All Trafalgar Square fountains will be drained and the main ones boarded up to stop people climbing up them.

Electronic visual display boards will be installed to flash messages and crowd control instructions to revellers.

Publicity will remind people of the dangers and encourage them not to drink too much and to behave sensibly.

British Rail will run extra trains in the early hours to cut the risk of a last-minute dash for home.

First-aid facilities will be improved and telephone links

to ambulance control centres provided.

Traffic bollards and a traffic island, often the scene of the carnage, will be replaced with removable posts.

There will be closer liaison between the police and the fire brigade.

Tube and pedestrian subways under the square will be used by the police to make it easier to deploy officers.

After Mr Brittan's announcement, Scotland Yard said that if crowds become too heavy people may be diverted away from the square.

The safety measures were drawn up in consultation with senior police officers, Home Office officials, representatives of the Department of the Environment, Westminster City Council, ambulance services, the fire brigade, London Transport, British Rail and British Transport police.

Their aim was to prevent the ugly scenes of last New Year's Eve when two people died and 143 were taken to hospital. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, had provided Mr Brittan with a comprehensive report of the deaths.

More university places needed, not fewer, teachers say

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Statisticians at the Department of Education and Science were accused yesterday of getting their sums wrong on future university student numbers. Instead of falling by 20 per cent between now and 1984, they would rise over the next six years and then level off.

That challenge to government policy, which assumes that institutions will have to contract or close over the next decade, was published yesterday in a document, *The Real Demand for Student Places*, by the Association of University Teachers, representing 34,000 academics.

It throws into question the "Great Debate" on the future of the universities being orchestrated by the University Grants Committee, based on the education department research. The so-called Great Debate might well end up as a joke, Miss Diana Warwick, the minister responsible for higher education, said.

The Government's predictions are questioned on two grounds: that they take no account of the rising birth rate in social classes I and II who

research showed that the Government was slamming the door in the face of today's eight-year-olds.

"The AUT asks why did the DES not recognize these trends? Why is the DES apparently satisfied with arbitrary judgments?

"The answers to these questions may be embarrassing for the Government but it would be for the nation if adequate provision for future university education is not made", the document says.

The association's other argument for maintaining and expanding the university system is Britain's need for a skilled and educated workforce for economic recovery. It will be pursuing its challenge to the Government's figures with Mr Peter Brooke, the minister responsible for higher education.

The document has been sent to the Prime Minister, MPs, and all university vice-chancellors and principals. Mr Giles Radice, Labour spokesman on education, said yesterday that

Cash 'vital' for RSC at Barbican

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company will be forced to close its London base at the Barbican unless it receives fresh public funds, according to a team set up to scrutinize the workings of the company.

The report by Mr Clive Priestley recommends that the Government provide the extra cash to enable the RSC to continue both in London and Stratford-upon-Avon, but has called for the company to reduce the amount of overtime paid to its production staff, and to renegotiate the working practices of stage staff at the Barbican.

Mr Priestley's team, set up on the Prime Minister's orders, revealed that the two joint artistic directors of the company, Trevor Nunn and Terry Hands, receive annual salaries of nearly £50,000 and £35,000 respectively, although Mr Nunn is on unpaid sabbatical.

Of those salaries, Mr Priestley says: "It is the men not their wives who carry the pay. I do not agree with those who argue that they are overpaid. I do not see why in principle it is wrong to set a high value on merit in the subsidized theatre.

"The joint artistic directors have a remarkable and fitting talent as may be seen in their work on the stage and I have no reason to disbelieve what others have told me, that they could earn more in the commercial sector, especially abroad."

Counsellor for prostitutes is appointed

Royal butler 'received death-threat calls'

By Craig Seton

The London Borough of Camden has appointed a "prostitution resources officer" to help women who want to stop being prostitutes. Confirming the appointment yesterday, a council spokesman declined to identify the woman, but said that she had been seconded from the social services department for a six-month trial period.

The official will conduct a survey of organizations that could help, including voluntary and statutory welfare agencies, the police, and Job Centres and will probably counsel prostitutes themselves.

It is believed to be first appointment of its kind, although Camden has been campaigning for more than a year to reduce prostitution and its attendant problems.

Death threats apparently made to Mr Andrew Lightwood, a former royal butler, were being investigated by Gloucestershire police yesterday.

Mr Lightwood said that he would telephone Princess Anne to explain personally why he had left his job at Gatcombe Park, after warnings that he was to be killed.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that it could not discuss security matters but added that Mr Lightwood, aged 23, could be in breach of his terms of employment in talking to the press.

Mr Lightwood who was for four years in the service of the Queen, became Princess Anne's butler in August but left after reporting to the police that he had received about 14 telephone calls on an unlisted

Museum move

Plans for a museum of world railways in Peterborough using disused rail warehouses to display locomotives and rolling stock in working condition, are being studied by a group of rail enthusiasts.



Dolly mixture: Mr Xavier Roberts in London yesterday with some Cabbage Patch Kids. (Photograph: John Manning.)

Prince William to get Cabbage Patch Kid

By Tony Samstag

Prince William is to be given his own Cabbage Patch Kid. Mr Xavier Roberts, who created the soft dolls but prefers to be known as their "father", said in London yesterday: "I certainly hope to send one to Prince William by Christmas. I have a number of suitable candidates with me."

The launch in Britain spearheaded an international onslaught in 1984, with West Germany targeted for February and Japan by April.

Mr Roberts, aged 28 and from Georgia, the "father" of 300,000 handmade dolls (2½

million more have been mass produced in Hong Kong to date) is not above sending himself up a bit, with his sort-of Stetson hat and his rattlesnake-skin boots.

He refused to disclose how much money he has made from his Cabbage Patch - an American equivalent of the gooseberry bush under which babies are found - but it is clearly enough to have made him a multi-millionaire with a 38-bedroom mansion on 430 acres in the Blue Ridge

mountains, five very large cars and an Olympic-size pool.

Mr Roberts considers that his dolls are not bought but "adopted", and supplies "adoption certificates" and "official registration" procedures.

A computer ensures that each doll is different from all the others in some physical detail and in its name. The dolls will sell here for £24.95. About 15,000 have been supplied for Christmas and Harrods has sold several hundred already.

Arthritis drug may be withdrawn

By Thomson Prentice Medical Reporter

A drug introduced to Britain last year as a pain-reliever to sufferers from rheumatism and arthritis may be withdrawn after talks between the Committee on Safety of Medicines and the manufacturers about its side-effects.

The proportion of female students has increased from 30.6 per cent in 1970-1 to 41.3 per cent in 1982-3. It says it is reasonable to assume that trend will continue.

The *Real Demand for Student Places* (Association of University Teachers, United House, 1 Pembroke Road, London W1 3HJ; free).



Fancy dress: the Priestley report reveals the details of dressing the part of Queen Victoria in *Poppy*, staged by the RSC

The Queen's missionary costume cost £513.75; £250 for the jacket, skirt and petticoat which were made up by an outside contractor plus 10 metres of jacket and skirt fabric, £25; button boots, £45; hat, £40; jacket trimmings, £25; cash fabric, £10.50; hat veil, £10; fan, £10; petticoat fabric, £9.60; hat straw, £7; painting on sash, £6; net for cap and lace, £5; tights, £3.75; gloves, £3.50; jacket lining, £3.40. The umbrella is a stock prop.

RSC performers earn between £120 and £400 for a 45-hour week, while musicians were paid between £163 and £279 for a 24-hour week.

Production workers received a basic average of £9,900, but boosted that to £13,750 with overtime.

Mr Priestley praises the RSC staff for their dedication to the company and concludes that they are not overpaid.

He also rejects the notion that the subsidized RSC offers unfair competition to the commercial West End.

"It seems evident that there are the makings of a 'mixed economy' between the subsidized and the commercial theatre, television and the cinema. Examples of plays which have originated in the RSC and transferred to the West End to film or television are *Privates on Parade*, *Educating Rita* and

Nicholas Nickleby." Mr Priestley concludes that there is a "palpable underfunding" of the RSC compared with the National Theatre. The company will receive a £3.6m grant from the Arts Council this year but expects an accumulated deficit of £191,000, rising, on present results, to nearly £1.7m by March 1985.

The report recommends that the RSC is given two years to solve the peaks and troughs of work in the production department which give rise to additional overtime and to renegotiate practices at the Barbican. It urges the Arts Council to increase the company's grant for this year to £4.1m and recommends an additional grant to wipe out the £191,000 deficit.

The RSC said yesterday that it had made its observations on the report to Lord Gowrie, the Minister for the Arts.

Kidney patient may sue

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

A patient who needs dialysis and is denied it by the National Health Service will be treated at a private hospital and the bill for the cost sent to the Department of Health. Mrs Elizabeth Ward, president of the British Kidney Patient Association, said yesterday.

She said she had discussed

Britain soon to receive satellite TV channel

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The first commercial television channel to be beamed across Europe and received legally in Britain takes to the air on the new European satellite, ECS-1, in 10 days with three hours of family entertainment in the early evening. By next April Sky Channel offered by the Satellite Television company, will have expanded to eight hours a day.

From 4 pm until midnight, seven days a week, it will transmit a mix of music, films, sport and light entertainment from studios in London, *Starkey* and *Hi-Fi*, *Charl's Angels* and *Vegas* and other American programmes make up a substantial proportion of the channel's offerings. In January, when the service extends from three to five hours, that proportion will be over 60 per cent but by April it is supposed to drop by a third.

It is expected to drop even further once the television companies have concluded effective agreements with EquiTV for the retransmission of recorded material on cable.

Cable operators in Britain and other European countries will receive the Sky Channel on their antenna and redistribute the programme on their network.

Mr Morris says the National Health Service Act, 1977, imposes a duty on the Secretary of State to secure improvement in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness.

"It is submitted that such a patient may enforce the public duty imposed upon his area health authority by means of an application for judicial review. Vocal demands by doctors and in the press for an increase in the resources applied to the treatment of kidney patients appear to be producing little or no practical benefit.

The new commercial television logo

MUST THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY CONTINUE?

Mariam is Ethiopian. During 1983 she has lost everything.

She is one of millions whose lives have been devastated by the freak weather conditions which have swept across the Southern Hemisphere.

The worst affected are the poorest men and women already living on the brink of poverty.

Your donation can help by providing new seeds, cattle and simple shelters for the homeless.

Please give what you can today.

I enclose my donation of:

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ADDRESS _____

Postcode _____

Thank you. Now please return this form to me, Guy Stringer, Room TM24, Oxfam, Freeport, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7BR.

Milk yield study after farm scare

A study has been started to determine if milk yield from farms in Stirlingshire has fallen after a chemicals scare.

The study, commissioned by the Industrial Pollution Inspectorate for Scotland, comes after allegations by Mr Andrew Graham, a farmer from Milngavie, near Glasgow, that his dairy cows have changed colour, stopped producing milk and wasted away and died after grazing near the Re-Chem International chemical waste plant, Bonnybridge near Falkirk.

He is planning to take legal action against the company and says he has lost around 60 cows.

Mr George Stott, the inspectorate's senior inspector, said that the amount of radioactive waste at the plant was well within authorized limits.

Dr Arthur Coleman, Managing Director of Re-Chem welcomed the investigation of the cattle deaths and said the company was confident that it would be cleared of involvement.

Quality fear over cheaper holidays

Travel agents are concerned that the holiday price war will lead to a decline in quality. Mr Ronald Jenkins, the new managing director of Olympic Holidays, said yesterday.

His company has announced an average 12 per cent cut in the price of travel to Greece and the Greek Islands, after "negotiating right to the bone" on behalf of the British traveller.

Sealink fares to go up

Sealink is to increase fares on car ferries from January 1, because of rising costs. On crossings to Belgium and short journeys to France, the £9.50 fare for drivers and passengers will go up by 50p and on other continental routes by £1. Car rates have also been increased.

A new off-season 72-hour excursion fare, from £90, will be introduced next year between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire, near Dublin, for any car with two adults.

£155,000 award for carpenter

A carpenter was awarded £155,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday for brain injuries suffered after a joist he was working on broke and he fell 10 feet.

Through his wife, Maureen, Mr Michael Reilly, aged 57, from Stratford, east London, sued his employers, M Conway (Formwork) Ltd, which had denied liability.

Miner killed

A miner, Mr James Smith, aged 46, of Blakely Grove, Alverthorpe, West Yorkshire, was killed yesterday in the first fatal accident at the new Rical mine in the Selby coalfield. He was crushed by machinery.

Olivier recovery

Lord Olivier was making a satisfactory recovery last night after a kidney operation on Wednesday at St Thomas

PARLIAMENT December 8 1983

Minister hopes to save £100m on annual drugs bill

HEALTH SERVICE

The Government is to attempt to reduce the drugs bill paid by the national health service by reducing the profit drugs companies can make from drugs sold to the NHS. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said in a statement to the Commons. But the Government has decided not to implement the recommendation in a recent report which said it was better to use generic drugs in place of branded drugs unless the prescribing doctor stated otherwise.

Mr Clarke said: "prescription medicines cost the NHS in England about £1.25m in 1982/83. Drugs account for about 40 per cent of the total cost of the PPS, and about 10 per cent of the cost of the NHS as a whole. The pharmaceutical industry's profit from the non-statutory Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme which was introduced in its present form in 1978.

However, the present scheme has run unaltered for over five years. We have decided both to reduce the level of profit from NHS business and the level of sales promotion allowed as an expense under the Scheme.

First under the scheme each pharmaceutical company participating in it is assigned a target rate of profit. We have decided that these targets should be reduced by an average of 4 percentage points which will represent a saving to the NHS in the UK of about £40m a year. We have also decided that the discretion which our department allows in certain circumstances when companies exceed their target profit will be tightened and relaxed more closely to a company's particular circumstances. Companies will be told what their new targets are very shortly.

Second, the industry will spend about £180m this year on sales promotion. We propose, first, that companies should be asked to repay to the department a sum equivalent to any sales promotion expenditure which exceeds the level allowed under the scheme. It should be emphasised that the industry's limit should be reduced from the present level of 10 per cent of turnover to 9 per cent in 1985/86. We estimate that when fully implemented these measures should reduce actual expenditure on sales promotion by 25 per cent but we will review this area again to see if further reduction can be made.

All measures I have announced will take effect from 1 April next



Mawhinney: A triumph for vested interests

year. In a full year they will produce savings on the NHS bill rising to present estimates from £55m in 1984/85 to well over £100m in later years. This compares with the industry's total profit from sales in the UK in 1983 of an estimated £200m.

The changes will mean that the price freeze on drugs - introduced in August as part of the £25m savings agreed then - will continue, though with four exceptions, through 1984/85 and beyond. Furthermore, the price freeze will be at the level established by the 2½ per cent cut of August.

We have also discussed with the industry the problem of parallel importing of medicines. We will shortly issue a consultative document on proposals which will ensure that medicines parallel imported for general dispensing must be licensed under the Medicines Act.

There remains the question of generic substitution which is a vital tool in dealing with the cost of the PPS as announced earlier this year. The Greenfield Committee proposed that a pharmacist should substitute an equivalent generic preparation for proprietary medicine unless the prescribing doctor had specifically indicated that this should not be done.

The Committee acknowledged that they had not taken account of the views of the pharmaceutical industry, of their recommendation. Consultation on the Greenfield report earlier this year showed professional opinion to be divided on this recommendation.

It became clear that many general practitioners were concerned that their patients would be supplied with formulations of drugs not their doctors had requested. General practice and pharmacists favoured a recommendation to be divided responsibilities for the treatment of patients. The various procedures considered all raised serious practical problems.

We have therefore decided not to proceed with generic substitution. We do, however, intend to start a new campaign to encourage generic prescribing by doctors.

We recognise the research achievements of the industry and the contribution it makes to the UK economy. We want to see that the industry's limit should be reduced from the present level of 10 per cent of turnover to 9 per cent in 1985/86. We estimate that when fully implemented these measures should reduce actual expenditure on sales promotion by 25 per cent but we will review this area again to see if further reduction can be made.

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Output level above the cyclical peak in 1979

PM's QUESTIONS

Conservative governments had been very good for Britain, as was recognized at the last general election, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons in response to accusations from the Opposition that her policies had been damaging.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition (Labour), said if the Prime Minister had seen the figures which sadly confirmed a 25 per cent national rate of increase in business failures?

Which policies (she asked) is she going to change to reverse this sad trend?

Mrs Thatcher Unemployment appears to have peaked. The number of vacancies is not increasing as fast as we would wish. There is considerable interest in new enterprise allowances, and as he will have seen from social trends there is a record number of people who are self-employed.

Mr Kinnock: Does she agree with it is extremely sad that in four years there has been a drop in competitiveness to the tune of 30 per cent. Investment has gone down by 20 per cent and given the recovery she talks about, if the present rate of progress was

sustained, it would take 160 years to get back to the level of 1979.

Is that 160 year rate a medium-term or long-term strategy?

Mrs Thatcher: Output per head and per hour now is 11 and 14 per cent above the previous cyclical peak in 1979. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave full details of capital expenditure, he pointed out that when you have a true definition of capital expenditure it is about the same as it was in 1979.

Mr David Winnick (Wallasey North, Lab): While recognizing that hardly anything has gone right for the Prime Minister in the last few weeks - (Interruptions) - it is not unjust to deprive the Leader of the House of Commons of the job of coordinating Government policy?

Why does she not recognize like the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Prior) and the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Peter Walker), in their coded way, that it is the policies themselves which are so damaging for Britain, and not the economic situation?

Mrs Thatcher: I note he thinks to get inflation down is dangerous for growth, although our record is far better than Labour's. We have been far better on the National Health Service than the Labour Government. The last Labour Government actually reduced provision for the NHS in real terms in two of the five years they were in office.

PM attacks economic policy of US

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that the United States' high interest rates were extremely damaging to Britain and that its United States economic policies would cause great trouble in a year's time. Britain's position was sustainable but difficult.

Mr Peter Tappell (Lindsey East, C) had asked: When later today she receives the United States Secretary of State, Mr Don Regan, will she discuss with him the reasons why the economic policies which could, in my view, fairly be described as neo-Keynesian seem to have brought such beneficial effects so far to the United States?

Before our own next Budget is finalized, could the principles of British economic policy be rigorously re-examined with an open mind? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: In spite of what he says, a budget deficit of this kind is high interest rates which are extremely damaging to this country and other European countries and are preventing us from getting the amount of investment we should have here by drawing a lot of capital to the United States.

I would rather be in our position which is sustainable than in theirs, which I believe will cause great trouble in 12 months.

Problems of protection that face RUC

TERRORISM

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons that it was mainly due to Mr Peter Graham, the official Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who was murdered yesterday (Wednesday) to ask for protection.

No responsible politician would ask for personal protection which cannot be provided for his constituents.

Mr Prior, during questions on security in the Province, said Mr Graham had been advised about extra protection which could be offered to him but there was no immediate suggestion that he was a specific terrorist target.

He said Mr Graham's cold-blooded murder clearly demonstrated the barbarity of terrorism. The security forces had continued their dedicated efforts to combat terrorist crime. So far this year 580 people had been charged with terrorist offences, including 66 with murder and 59 with attempted murder. Some 204 weapons, over 34,568 rounds of ammunition and 3,762 lbs of explosives had been recovered in the same period.

The Government and the security forces (he said) will not be diverted from their tasks.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): Is it not Mr Prior's duty to remain in post to restore security in Northern Ireland and, by every act, word and deed, to convey to the world a simple message that they will not win?

Mr Clarke: The overall target of return under the system we inherited from the previous Labour government was 25 per cent, and above that a so-called grey area of protection of further 10 per cent.

What I have announced reduces that overall target to 21 per cent and the grey area to 10 per cent of whatever the company's target is.

The savings we are making are a substantial and significant response to genuine needs in this area and represent a fair deal between the interests of the drug users, that is the NHS and the interests of those who work and earn a great deal for the UK in the pharmaceutical industry.

Mr Brian McWhinney (Peterborough, C): What Mr Clarke has had to say on drug substitution is a great disappointment and regrettably will be seen as a triumph of vested interests of the medical and pharmaceutical professions over the needs of patients.

Mr Clarke: The announcement I have made is estimated to reduce the overall target to 21 per cent and the grey area to 10 per cent of whatever the company's target is.

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MPs criticize DHSS for not knowing level of social security fraud

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Severe criticism of the Department of Health and Social Security for being unable to assess how much is being lost in social security frauds and uncollected National Insurance contributions has come from the Commons public accounts committee.

An estimate by a DHSS economic adviser that £500m a year might be being lost was dismissed by Sir Geoffrey Otto, second permanent secretary at the department, as hypothetical, in evidence to the committee.

He told the committee that a Rayner scrutiny estimate that 8 per cent of claimants were working might be too high.

But the committee says: "Whilst DHSS suspected that there was a good deal of undetected fraud, they had no enthusiasm for attempting to guess how much they were allowing to get away."

While noting that most detected fraud is for small sums, special claims control investigations "appear to indicate that a good deal of undiscovered fraud exists", the committee says.

"We are surprised at DHSS's attitude to the paucity of information on the extent of undetected fraud".

The large gaps in the department's knowledge mean it lacks a satisfactory basis for

deploying staff on anti-fraud activities, and until random sampling of claimants, recommended by the Fisher Committee in 1973, or an alternative system is introduced, "it appears to us that... it will remain uncertain how far discovered benefit fraud represents the measure of the whole problem."

While the department argues that random sampling would involve the investigation of people about whom there was no suspicion, the committee says that such an approach could hardly be more objectionable than the present system where some investigations are launched on the basis of anonymous letters.

"Overall we do not find at all satisfactory the present situation - or the DHSS's attitude on the lack of firm information on the extent of benefit fraud."

The department has estimated that increased anti-fraud activity since 1980 had produced savings in two years of £388m, but there had been criticism that the figure was exaggerated, the committee says.

It also gives a warning that the abandonment in 1982 of the Camelot computerized system for paying benefits meant that new computerized systems would not come in until 1986 at the earliest.



Crime fighters: Mr Brian Hayes, chief constable of the Surrey police force which pioneered the use of police dogs in this country, with his latest recruit, Una, an alsatian aged three months. He will take charge of her early training.

Astronauts to test 'Buck Roger's jet'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first jet pack for propelling astronauts about in space Buck Rogers-style will be tested in orbit next month.

If successful, it will be used later in the year by an astronaut repair spacecraft, the solar maximum satellite, so it can resume monitoring flares and variations in particles emitted by the Sun, which influence the Earth's climate and radio communications.

A description of the pack was given by Mr C. J. Meechan, vice-president for strategic planning, North American space operations, Rockwell International, California, which built the Space Shuttle, to a meeting of the Royal Society in London yesterday.

After reviewing the achievements of the Shuttle, Mr Meechan outlined progress on other projects for launching new types of satellites, the first large optical telescope (in 1986), orbiting laboratories and, by the early 1990s, large permanent space platforms.

But each goal had first to be backed by new equipment and methods for working and manoeuvring in space, he said. Those technologies were being tested in the early Shuttle flights.

Footballer found gassed

Robert Wilson, aged 22, the Fulham footballer, and his wife Lesley were seriously ill with carbon monoxide poisoning yesterday after being gassed in the house that they moved into less than a month ago.

The couple were found unconscious at their semi-detached house in Woodhill, near Wokingham, Berkshire, early yesterday, by Mr Charles Crumbley, Mr Wilson's uncle.

It is believed that they had lain unconscious for up to 24 hours.

He failed to revive them and they were taken to the intensive care unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in Reading.

Southern Gas said yesterday: "We did not install any of this equipment but we have been called in by the police to carry out a full investigation."

Mr Roy Limb, the London council's chief executive, said Mr Windrum had been granted access to the office only because a receptionist recognized the journalists with him. Their presence induced Mr Windrum to do what he did.

But Mr Michael Pearce, the editor, said his staff had simply recorded the event. They would not otherwise have got the story because of a council boycott of the newspaper.

Newspaper complaints rejected

Complaints against two local newspapers are rejected by the Press Council today.

The *Lincolnshire Standard* had been accused by Mr T. G. B. Barnes, a defeated Boston Council election candidate of influencing an election by publishing an early report and photographs of his rivals on polling days.

But the editor, Mr George Wheatman, said the report of a pavement debate between Mr Barnes' rivals had nothing to do with the election. His newspaper did not take sides.

In the other case, the *Hornsey Journal* had been accused of conspiracy with a ratepayer who emptied a bag of rubbish on a council official's desk.

Mr Nicholas Windrum emptied the rubbish on the desk of Haringey Borough Council's public relations officer, Mr Marcus Grodenz, watched by a reporter and photographer.

Mr Roy Limb, the London council's chief executive, said Mr Windrum had been granted access to the office only because a receptionist recognized the journalists with him. Their presence induced Mr Windrum to do what he did.

But Mr Michael Pearce, the editor, said his staff had simply recorded the event. They would not otherwise have got the story because of a council boycott of the newspaper.

Grant for railway study

The English Tourist Board has agreed to contribute £4,000 towards a study of Carlisle-Settle railway line which is threatened with closure.

The survey, which started on Monday, has been commissioned by a steering committee from Cumbria, West Yorkshire and Lancashire county councils and will cost £22,000.

The Cumbria Tourist Board asked the English Tourist Board for a financial contribution because it wanted to emphasize the line's potential for tourism. It felt that the



Crime fighters: Mr Brian Hayes, chief constable of the Surrey police force which pioneered the use of police dogs in this country, with his latest recruit, Una, an alsatian aged three months. He will take charge of her early training.

Social trends: 2

More children gain O levels and go on to college

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

More boys and girls are passing O levels at school than they did 10 years ago, with girls doing better than boys at English and boys doing better in mathematics, physics and chemistry.

According to figures in *Social Trends*, 55 per cent of school-leavers in Britain had more than one O level pass (grade A to C) in 1981-82 compared with 50 per cent in 1973-74. In the 10 years between 1970-71 and 1981-82 the proportion of boys leaving school with O level passes in English, mathematics, physics or chemistry increased by 3, 4, 6 and 4 percentage points respectively. Among girls the corresponding increases were 7, 7, 4 and 4 percentage points.

The figures were as follows:

	Boys	Girls
70-71	50	55
81-82	55	60
70-71	38	42
81-82	45	50
Eng	30	33
Maths	27	31
Phys	15	21
Chem	11	15
	37	44
	19	26
	4	8
	5	9

In the six years from 1976 to 1982, there was a 19 per cent drop in primary pupil numbers because of the decline in the birth rate and numbers are expected to fall by a further 15 per cent by 1991. That will lead to a further 5 per cent drop in primary rolls and to a 25 per cent fall in secondary rolls.

Most secondary school children now go to comprehensives.

In 1971 38 per cent went to comprehensives, but by 1982 it was 85 per cent in England and more than 96 per cent in Scotland and Wales.

The number of pupils staying into the sixth form has increased, from 27.5 per cent in 1975-76 to 29 per cent in 1980-81. The number going on to further and higher education has also risen, from 22.5 per cent in 1987-88 to 28 per cent in 1981-82.

Nearly a third of girls leaving school in 1981-82 went on to further or higher education, compared with just under a quarter of boys. The trend for more school-leavers to go on to full-time further education is probably associated with rises in

unemployment among young people", the report said.

The increase in the number of 16-year-olds unemployed reflected the national picture. In 1981-82, only a third of 16-year-old boys and a quarter of girls had jobs, compared with nearly half of 16-year-olds in 1975-76.

The figures show that there has been an improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio from 20.2 to 19.0 pupils per teacher between 1976 and 1982. They also show that education increases a person's earning power, and that nearly half of all college students in 1981-82 had fathers in the professional and managerial and managers socio-economic groups.

Social Trends 14, Central Statistical Office (Stationery Office, £19.95).

Tomorrow: Housing

Vernons and Restormel Borough used it carefully!

... and as a result, they're the winners of this year's Gas Energy Management Awards for industry and commerce.

Every year the gas people present these awards to those organisations which, working in partnership with the Technical Consultancy Service engineers of their Gas Region, are judged to have made the most significant contribution to energy conservation.

GEM Award for Industry.

Vernon & Company (Pulp Products) Ltd, of Bolton, produce a range of high quality disposable items for hospitals under the brand name of Vernaid.

They are made by an ingenious process using reclaimed cellulose fibre derived from newspapers!

Energy used for drying accounts for 20% of Vernon's product costs, so they are very energy-conscious and, working closely with the engineers from the North West Gas Technical Consultancy Service, have adopted a wide range of energy management ideas which have resulted in a 25% fuel saving.

A further TCS project is

being considered which could lead to even greater savings.

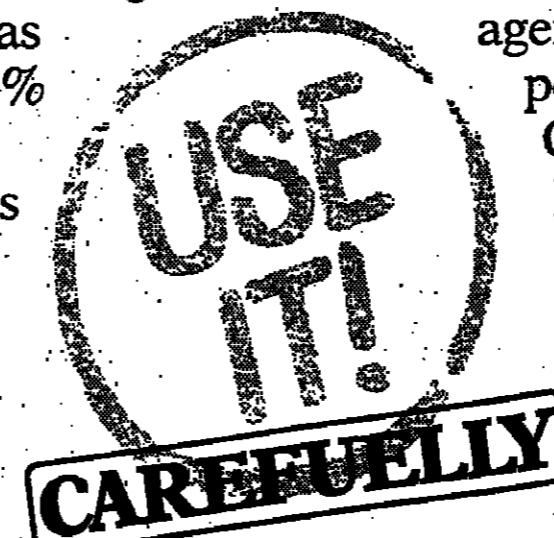
GEM Award for Commerce.

At St Austell, in Cornwall, in the Borough of Restormel is the Polkyth Leisure Centre. It is a multi-purpose sports complex built in 1974/75 and includes a swimming-pool, squash courts, general sports hall, sauna and solarium.

Naturally, a lot of energy is used here, and the Borough Council, being cost-conscious, consulted the Technical Consultancy Service Engineers at South West Gas about the recovery of waste heat. Several schemes were considered and a gas engine-driven heat pump was installed which, with other measures, has resulted in an overall saving of 72%.

Profit from our experience.

If these high efficiency achievements interest you, you owe it to yourself, and your shareholders or ratepayers, to find out more. For details of these and other case histories from the Gas Energy Management Awards, write to the gas people - British Gas, Technical Consultancy Service, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT.



WONDERFUEL GAS - FROM THE GAS PEOPLE

Gas

Israelis find six reasons to justify their policy of getting tough with Syria

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir's Government is basing its new hard-line military policy in Lebanon – particularly the renewal of bombing raids – on the central assumption that Syria has recently lost its initiative there.

In an interview with *The Times*, a senior official with close links to Mr Shamir gave a warning that any withdrawal of the European contingents of the peacekeeping force in Beirut would be seen as "appeasement" of Syria and would lead automatically to greater instability and more bloodshed.

He outlined six reasons why the Government believes Syria has lost the upper hand and can be more easily persuaded by a tough military policy to rethink its refusal to contemplate withdrawing its forces. He said that all of them were shared by the Reagan Administration and had been discussed extensively during the recent Washington summit.

The reasons given were:

• President Assad's serious illness. Israeli intelligence is now "more or less certain" he suffered a severe heart attack, with complications from diabetes and a probable blood clot in the head. The official said President Assad was being treated by a leading neurologist as well as a cardiologist.

Four agree to keep troops in Lebanon

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The urgent need to pool the information collected by the four countries making up the multinational "peacekeeping" force in Lebanon, was agreed by the foreign ministers of the US, Italy, France and Britain when they met over breakfast in Brussels yesterday. The view put forward by Sir Geoffrey Howe was that they could all do more behind the scenes at the political level to try to bring about a reconciliation between the different factions in the country. It was also agreed that the security interests of Syria had to be protected.

At the same time, under strong pressure from the Americans, the Italians promised to maintain their force at present levels, although it was clear that Signor Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Minister, wanted some to be withdrawn.

"I think that we can and must return to the initial agreements with the Lebanese Government," he said later. "Those agreements are about 1,100 Italian troops in Beirut. Now we have doubled that number. But the withdrawal has to be done in the light of the new situation in Sabra and Chatila and in the light of the Lebanese reconciliation process. Italy does not want to be responsible for failure of the Geneva talks."

The ministers did not, however, talk about withdrawal, their spokesmen insisted afterwards, and M Claude Chevignon, the French Minister, said: "It would be completely wrong on our part to reduce our involvement while there is hope that the Geneva reconciliation talks can succeed."

It was the first time the four ministers had got together to discuss the Lebanon since their meeting in Paris on October 27.

They used the occasion to emphasize that the mission was a peaceful one with the twofold objective of helping reconciliation in the Lebanon and securing the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The intention was "to deescalate and not reescalate the violence" in the words of an American official.

As far as reconciliation was concerned, "there has been some movement, but we want to see more." The ministers felt "this was a two-way street." Although they wanted the government to act "there are other players and there is as much need for them to move."

In this context, the Americans agreed that the different countries in the multinational force had contacts "with different factions and different players." It was vital that they should pool their information so that they could have a better chance of helping the reconciliation process.

Gemayel will spend two days in London

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon will pay his first official visit to the country on December 13 and 14, Downing Street said yesterday.

He is coming at the invitation of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who will host a luncheon at Number 10 during talks on the Lebanon crisis next Wednesday. The president will also see Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Foreign Office, but it is not yet known which, if any, other Beirut ministers will be accompanying him.

• The fact that Syria was not contradicted in the recent strategic cooperation agreement with the United States and the stringent denials from Jerusalem and Washington of any collusion over last weekend's air raids.

• Information that the Soviet Union has recently told Syria it does not want the renewal of full-scale warfare in Lebanon or the breakdown of the Geneva conference. Israel concludes that Russia's stand has reduced the chances of global conflict erupting in the region. President Andropov's illness is regarded as a key reason for the Soviet call for restraint.

• The official hinted strongly that more Israeli attacks in Lebanon could be expected because of the Government's assessment that Syria was unprepared to escalate the conflict into a Middle East war.

The evidence is that the Syrians are prepared to fight to the last Druze or Palestinian militiamen, but not to the last Syrian soldier, he said.

• The official had not realized that President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon would stand up so resolutely against its demand for abrogation of the May 17 Israel-Lebanon pact.

• The Syrians were also taken back by the recent resumption of Israeli air attacks in Lebanon.

"For months they believed that we would not retaliate because they did not think the Israeli

public would wear it," the official told me. "They now know differently."

• The "very tough stand" taken by the Americans whom the Israeli Cabinet believes are no longer afraid to stand up to the Arab world, largely because of the blunting of the oil weapon.

The official argued that there

refused to confirm or deny whether it was carrying nuclear weapons.

Invincible had been engaged

in exercises with elements of the Royal Australian Navy and

developed a vibration problem in its starboard propeller.

Invincible is now moored off Woolloomooloo in a bay near the naval dockyard. Yesterday

British naval divers were seen going down to inspect the propeller.

Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, said it was

Australian Government policy not to allow nuclear arms on Australian soil.

According to military experts here, both the Druze and Palestinians have recently lost much of their motivation for fighting as Syrian proxies against Israel – the Druze because they have achieved their objective of control in the Chouf mountains, and the Palestinians because of the bitter fighting inside the PLO.

The official version from the British side on the incident was that Invincible would not be

using the dockyard for "operational reasons".

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Sainsbury's Vintage Selection.

It reads like the wine list in a good restaurant. Until you come to the prices.



If you're a wine buff who's been buffeted by rising prices you'll welcome our Vintage Selection.

You'll find the quality familiar and the prices, quite often, nostalgic.

All thirty-one wines have been tasted and tested by our wine buyers, who have been working if you can call it work on this selection for 18 months. (Over 600 wines were considered.)

All of the wines are ready to drink now though some are suitable for laying down.

Many of them come with established reputations like the Puligny Montrachet or Château Grand Puy Ducasse.

Some are more unusual like the delicious dessert wine Moulin Touchais from the Loire - or our dry red wine from Portugal called Quinta Da Bacalhôa.

Many are virtually exclusive to Sainsbury's and all bear our Vintage Seal on the label.

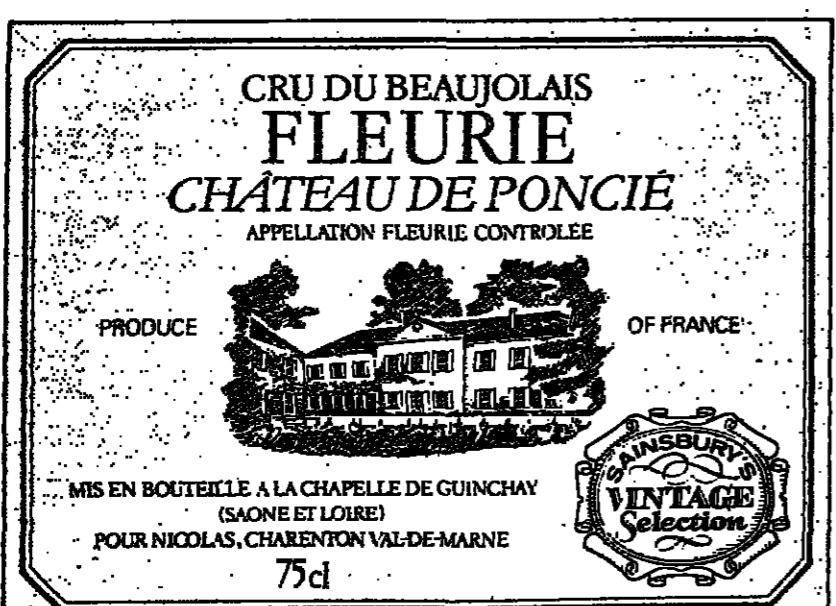
You'll find the complete list in 60 of our largest stores and a further 160 stores will carry a good selection. If you discover some wines not on this list, don't worry, we're constantly adding to our selection and all the wines have been vetted.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about the wines below and that you'll be tempted to turn a wine list into something even more satisfying.

A shopping list.

1. Château Grand Puy Ducasse 1979 Pauillac. A classic Claret from one of the most important communes in the Médoc. Full bodied with good fruit and tannin this wine will develop over the next three or four years into a fine wine of distinction. £7.45.

2. Château Jean-Faure 1979 Grand Cru St. Emilion. Like all St. Emilians this wine will drink younger than the great growth clarets and is already soft and fruity. The 1979 is delightfully drinkable and offers, along with elegant medium weight, a bouquet with a hint of violets. £5.45.



3. Château de Poncier 1981 Fleurie. The true charm and distinction of one of the most delicate of the Beaujolais. Granite soil and the Gamay grape have combined in one of the more southerly Beaujolais Villages to produce a wine which is soft, fruity and delicately perfumed. Superb with cold meats or cheese - but many would say with anything. £4.35.

4. Château Tourteau Chollet 1980 Graves. Graves, a huge area of wine production to the south of Bordeaux is famed for its rich, slightly spicy red wines. Small proprietors abound in the area, producing wines which are firm when young and pay for keeping. Here is a pleasant fruity example of medium weight which will go happily with most meats or cheese. £3.60.

5. Château du Bousquet 1981 Côtes de Bourg. Less well known than the Médocs which lie opposite, the wines of the Côtes de Bourg offer excellent value for money. The best of the slopes, near the river, include the vines from which this splendid example is formed. Although it will keep, it can be enjoyed now. £3.20.

6. Gevrey Chambertin 1978. Amongst the richest and most enduring of all the great Burgundies, this full-bodied and powerful wine from the celebrated village on the slopes of the Côte de Nuits, will be enjoyed with the richer meats. £8.95.

7. Côte de Brouilly 1982. Produced on the granite soil of the most northerly of the nine nominated 'cru' villages which produce the best of the Beaujolais. Côte de Brouilly is fruity and fresh. £3.45.

8. Domaine André Brunel 1980 - Châteauneuf du Pape. Châteauneuf du Pape is recognised the world over as the finest of the southern Rhônes. Dark, strong and long-lived. This is a fine example from the rocky vineyard of one of the leading growers and two or three years more bottle age will improve it. £4.95.



9. Gigondas 1981. Like its more famous neighbour Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas is a deep, hearty, robust red wine, taking its character from the Grenache grapes which predominate in the blend. It will hold its own with game, roasts, casseroles and all cheese dishes. £4.35.

10. Château la Botie - Rhône 1982. This is the product of a vineyard which was totally replanted 20 years ago. (It has grown in reputation as a result) The presence of Syrah and Grenache in the blend gives the slight peppery sensation on the palate which is so characteristic of a Rhône wine. £2.99.



11. Château Barreyres 1979 Haut-Médoc. The Médoc, on the west bank of the river, is the most important red wine district of Bordeaux. Here, from just north of the Margaux, is an excellent fruity claret of medium weight, which has been made with great care and would even improve with a few years bottle age. £3.55.

12. Domaine du Colombier 1982 Chinon. Though less well-known there are some fine fresh light reds from the gravel soils of the Loire. This one has a distinct fruitiness and pleasant acidity. It is best drunk young and will happily accept a degree of chilling. £3.75.

13. Château de Gourgazaud 1980 or 1982 - Minervois. From the hilly country of the Languedoc-Roussillon but with more of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape than is usual. This makes for a distinctive medium-bodied wine of charm - robust enough for most meats and cheeses. £4.99. (Magnum)

14. Clos de La Mouchère 1980 or 1981 - Puligny Montrachet. Another great classic dry French white wine. Produced to the north of Meursault and lacking some of its softness it is, perhaps, the ultimate accompaniment to oysters but enhances any fish or white meat. £8.45.

15. Domaine De La Bizozière 1982 Savennières. The white Anjou wines to the western end of the Loire Valley are characteristically dry and full-bodied - some say with the crispness of new apples. Here is a fine example, best drunk young and served chilled, it is slightly flowery with good acidity. £3.60.

16. Sancerre Les Perrières 1982. This was a good year in the Loire, where the Sauvignon grapes grown on limestone produce elegant, dry white wines. This fresh and fruity wine from Verdigny Commune is best drunk young and slightly chilled. £4.65.



17. Meursault Moillard 1980. Meursault's Pinot Chardonnay grapes provide some of the world's great white wines. Rich, smooth and dry, but mellow. This is a fine example, soft and full, which will mature and improve for two or three years. £6.95.

18. Moulin Touchais 1964 - Anjou. The valley of the Loire shelters the Chenin Blanc vines from which are made some exceptional white wines. In the limestone 'caves' at Doué la Fontaine lies a huge selection of some of France's best kept wine secrets. Moulin Touchais is one. The perfect dessert wine with plenty of fruit and a balanced sweetness best revealed when chilled. £5.75.

19. Château Tertre du Moulin 1982 Entre-deux-Mers. Between the 'two seas' of the Dordogne and the Garonne lies a vast area of wine production. The whites of this area are allowed the 'appellation'. Here is a crisp, fruity dry white wine from a grower with an established reputation for consistent quality. £2.75.

20. Clos St. Georges 1981 Graves Supérieures. Long before Graves was known for the red wines with which it is now most associated, it had a high reputation for sweet white wines. Clos St. Georges is found on the borders of Barsac. It has depth, style and length, which come through impressively on the palate. £2.99.

21. Château de Beaulieu 1980 Côteaux Du Layon. Beaulieu is one of only six communes in this sheltered area to the south of the Loire to be granted the appellation. This is an exceptional medium sweet white wine with lots of fruit and an acidity of considerable length which give it great style and depth. At its best lightly chilled with fresh fruit. £2.80.

22. Muscat de Beaumes-De-Venise. This is a naturally sweet white wine from the southern end of the Rhône Valley. The sun has ample time to develop the sugar and add a delicate perfume and flavour. A dessert wine of great distinction. £4.25.

23. Chablis Premier Cru 1981 or 1982. One of the best known dry white wines of France from the small area of Chablis some 100 miles south east of Paris. Only the finer vineyards are designated Premier Cru. A classic wine ideal with white meat or fish. £4.35.

24. Château des Bidaudières Vouvray 1982. The Chenin Blanc grapes growing around this small village near Tours in the Loire Valley produce a medium dry white wine with good fruit and acidity. This wine will also improve on keeping. £3.45.

25. Ueriger Würzgarten Auslese 1975 or 1976 Moselle. The Riesling wines of Würzgarten are sheltered by mountains and this fragrant and spicy sweet wine is produced from selected (Auslese) grapes. Serve chilled with desserts or as a special aperitif. £5.99.



26. Domaine De La Brettonnerie 1982 Muscadet De Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie. This Muscadet is named after two of the Loire's great tributaries. It has the added fruitiness which results from the grapes remaining longer on the lees ('sur lie'). Ideal with fish - especially shellfish. A light, dry and refreshing white wine. £2.99.

27. Kiedricher Heiligenstock Kabinett 1982 Rheingau. From the pride of Germany's wine land come some splendid white wines. This one is no exception. Elegant and well-balanced it is a distinguished accompaniment to most white meat and fish. £4.20.

28. Deidesheimer Hergotzacker Kabinett 1981 or 1982 Rheinpfalz. Wines from the Palatinate are rich, well flavoured, and lively and Deidesheimer is regarded as one of the best villages. This is a light medium dry white wine and versatile enough for fish, poultry or a chilled aperitif. £4.10.

29. Aperdiner Gewürztraminer Beerenauslese 1981 or 1982. Selectively selected and overripe grapes from the Gewürztraminer vines at Aperdin in the Burgenland of Austria produce a wine of concentrated sweetness and depth to compare with the best of the Sauternes. Lightly chilled, it's superb with fruit or dessert. £4.95.

30. Amarone Pasqua 1978. This is a Recioto della Valpolicella - not to be confused with the more popular wine of the latter name. Only the grapes from the 'ear' of the vine which have begun to dry in the sun are used. The result is an impressive dry red wine of high quality and full flavour. £3.95.

31. Quinta da Bacalhôa 1981. Portuguese red wines have been a rather well-kept secret for too long. This one produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, matured in chestnut casks, is similar to a dry, red Bordeaux. Like all Portuguese reds, it will improve with keeping. £3.65.

Good wine costs less at Sainsbury's.

Democrats hope to beat Reagan with help of recession-hit blacks

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

The main significance of the Rev Jesse Jackson's decision to seek the Democratic presidential nomination lies not in the number of votes he will get at next year's party convention but in the impact it will have on the nation's black electorate - in particular, on黑人, to increase voter registration among blacks.

Mr Jackson is, in effect, riding the crest of a new political awakening among America's 27 million blacks. This process began during the Carter Administration but has accelerated rapidly since President Reagan came to office.

The reason for this is fairly simple. Despite the advances achieved during the civil rights campaign of the 1960s, blacks remain significantly worse off than whites. Unemployment among blacks is double that of whites and their average income is half.

Whatever gains they made under President Carter, they believe they have largely lost during the past three years. Many blacks feel the Reagan Administration is unsympathetic to their interests and that they have been forced to bear the brunt of its cutbacks in social spending.

The first tangible evidence of this black political renaissance appeared during the 1982 congressional elections, when black voting participation increased by 6 per cent over the previous off-year elections, an increase double that for whites.

This rise in turnout was the direct result of a black voter registration drive which has been under way for three years.

Between 1980 and 1982, an additional 573,000 blacks have gone on the rolls. More than 600,000 others have been added since the summer of 1982 and their numbers are increasing by thousands a week.

Russians claim Sakharov is mad

From Richard Owen
Moscow

A Soviet official hinted yesterday that the dissident physicist and human rights campaigner Dr Andrei Sakharov was mentally ill and that his views on nuclear disarmament proved he was deranged.

Mr Vitaly Ruben, a senior Supreme Soviet official, described Dr Sakharov as a "sick person". Dr Sakharov was exiled from Moscow to the closed town of Gorky in 1980 for his human rights activities. Mr Ruben claimed Dr Sakharov had sent a letter to the United States "urging the American administration to make a nuclear strike at the Soviet Union". In doing so he had called for nuclear catastrophe, Mr Ruben remarked, adding: "A healthy person does not do such things."

Dr Sakharov, the "father" of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, is well-known for his achievements in weapons design, his avowal of a nuclear war through nuclear disarmament.

Dr Sakharov, 66, has been feared as a political threat and would never be allowed to leave a place of confinement.

He lives in isolation in Gorky, and is in poor health. He has almost no contact with fellow scientists. Mrs Sakharov has complained that he is not allowed access to the Academy of Sciences hospital at Moscow.

Mr Ruben said the Kremlin had banned Dr Sakharov to Gorky out of "humane considerations" to ensure his "peace of mind". He was writing research papers for publication in Russia and America, and was "constantly in touch with fellow physicists".

Soviet doctors were "taking all necessary measures" to restore Dr Sakharov's health, and were treating him at home, Mr Ruben said. The authorities had acted with the necessary tact.

Moscow's dwindling band of dissidents is expected to appear on Pushkin Square tomorrow for the traditional protest marking human rights day. Mr Ruben said yesterday that Russia observed social, political and economic rights whereas the West did not. There was no unemployment in Russia, and those persecuted were not dissidents but anti-social criminals.

Mr Oleg Radzinsky, a founder member of the unofficial peace movement, yesterday wrote to Western correspondents in Moscow from a Siberian labour camp to condemn President Reagan and repudiate his support and help. Mr Radzinsky said his name was being used for "provocative purposes". Letters from Siberian exiles do not normally reach Western journalists.



yet the number of unregistered blacks amounted to almost a million.

The impact which increased registration can have been demonstrated in a number of mayoral races this year, notably in Chicago, where black turnout increased by 120,000, and Philadelphia, where it went up by about 100,000. Both cities elected black mayors for the first time in their history.

More than 240 American cities now have black mayors. They include four of the country's six biggest cities, although Mr Jackson's bid for the Democratic nomination is the most plausible expression of this new mood of black assertiveness. Black political leaders are hoping to make use of their growing numerical strength to expand their presence in the House of Representatives, which stands at 20 at present, and in state legislatures, which now have about 340.

They also believe they can help to recruit such notable right-wingers as Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, and Senator Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina, as well as a number of Southern conservative Democrat "Goliath" who enabled President Reagan to get his controversial tax-cut programme approved by Congress.

The main question that remains to be answered is whether blacks will vote in such large numbers as are now being predicted if, as seems certain, Mr Jackson loses the Democratic nomination. A number of black leaders, originally opposed to Mr Jackson's candidacy believe blacks will unite behind Democrat who has a chance of getting Mr Reagan out of the White House. But they concede that much of the enthusiasm which Mr Jackson generates at grassroots level will have been lost.

Cheap ways to avoid 15 million baby toll

By Tony Santasi

About 15 million children - the equivalent of the entire under-five population of the United States or of Britain, Italy, Spain and West Germany combined, have died in the past year, although a number of low-cost programmes could cut that rate by half, the United Nations' Children's Fund (Unicef) said yesterday.

Launching its report on *The State of the World's Children 1984*, the agency noted that an equal number of young children in the developing world were left physically or mentally handicapped by disease and malnutrition. The report, which analyses child mortality and life expectancy figures from 130 countries, draws on studies from 20 of the poorest which suggest that "dramatic gains in child well-being can indeed be achieved at a relatively low cost and in a relatively short time despite economic recession".

In addition traditional techniques of food supplements, family spacing and female education, Unicef recommends

four others: oral rehydration therapy for treating diarrhoeal infections, which kill five million children a year; growth monitoring to ensure more efficient use of what food is available; expanded immunization schemes and the promotion of breast-feeding.

Standards of child health care are improving so slowly, Unicef says, that "more than 70 million will still have infant death rates considerably higher than 50 per 1,000 by the end of this century. And in those 70 nations, three out of five of the world's children are born".

Such indicators as children's height-for-age, parallel rising infant mortality figures even in some areas of the United States and the Soviet Union to suggest that the world recession has had a severe impact on the state of the world's children.

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One to NATO

Washington

The Reagan Administration is to give serious study to the call by Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, for an end to Western economic sanctions against Poland.

The United States will consult closely with its allies on the matter, the President said in a short press statement on Wednesday.

"We have great respect and admiration for Lech Walesa, the courageous leader of Poland's free trade union movement," he said. "We shall give immediate and serious consideration to the issues he has raised."

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, will be able to discuss Polish developments with allied Foreign Ministers while in Brussels for the current Nato ministerial council session.

The White House announced yesterday that the United States had agreed with its Western allies to discuss the rescheduling of the 1981 Polish debt to Western governments.

However, the other main US sanctions imposed when martial law was declared in Poland in December 1981 would remain in effect. These include the prohibition of economic aid and sale of high technology.

Belgrade accuses Sofia of meddling

From Dessa Tresilian, Belgrade

Yugoslavia will increase its defence spending next year because of the unstable situation in Albania and the climate of suspicion generated by the superpowers.

Admiral Branko Mammia,

the Defence Secretary, has also accused Bulgaria of trying to take advantage of the

Yugoslav-Albanian rift.

Coming up roses: Jane Russell in Los Angeles making her first appearance in a television series after a long absence from Hollywood - during a break in filming "The Yellow Rose".

Washington

The one per cent increase is still below the minimum guaranteed by law during Tito's life. It comes at a time of economic difficulties and a large foreign debt, which led to austerity measures and cuts.

At least four Albanian ministers, including those of defence and internal affairs, were recently shot as close associates

of the former premier, Mr Mehmet Djedja, who committed suicide two years ago and was subsequently accused by Mr Lazar Xoxia of plotting to assassinate him.

The Albanian leader is 75 and although his recent birth-day was celebrated with great pomp, he did not attend and is believed to be ill.

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CONTRARY TO ANY PREVIOUS ADVICE, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A WINE.

- 1 Do you know that the Muscadet vineyards are the only ones in Britain to be classified by the Appellation Contrôlée authorities?
- 2 Are you aware that the grape variety grown in this area is the Melon de Bourgogne, which has been rechristened as the Muscadet?
- 3 Do you know that it was the monks in the seventeenth century who first brought vines to this area of France?
- 4 Are you familiar with the three areas of the Loire valley: dry wine in the west (Muscadet) and the east (Sancerre), with the sweeter wine in the middle (Amboise)?
- 5 Are you aware that traditionally Muscadet is the first region to be picked every year?
- 6 Do you realise that Muscadet is not only picked young, it is bottled young and is immediately ready for drinking?
- 7 Do you know Muscadet sparkling wine is bottled directly from the barrels where it has fermented on the lees?
- 8 Do you know that wines of 'sur lie' nature, if racked, will oxidise and become?
- 9 Do you ensure that for chilled white wine the glasses are cold?
- 10 Are you aware that it's the natural carbon dioxide in a wine which is responsible for its freshness?
- 11 Do you realise that the different productions of separate communes are almost impossible to find as they are not classified in this area?
- 12 Are you aware that there are three

- 13 Do you know it's the lower of these areas that is regarded as being the best?
- 14 Do you realise that altogether there are 22,500 acres of Muscadet grown near the mouth of the River Loire?
- 15 Do you know that Appellation Contrôlée not only guarantees the origin of Muscadet but also ensures that high standards are met?
- 16 Do you realise that the Appellation Contrôlée law sets a minimum alcohol level of 11% AC wines?
- 17 Do you know that Muscadet is one of the few French wines to have a recommended upper limit on its alcoholic strength, so it retains its freshness and fruity flavour?
- 18 When the French call a wine 'gouleyant' are you aware it means a light wine both in terms of taste and strength?
- 19 In the Loire the drier, lighter wines come from the areas with chalky soil, heavier wines from the areas of marl. Did you realise this is because marl stores more heat?
- 20 Do you know that the drier a wine is, the more fragrance it will have?
- 21 Muscadet is the natural accompaniment to shellfish and seafood. Did you realise this is because it's grown close to the Atlantic?
- 22 Muscadet does not need to be decanted. Do you realise this is because it 'throws' little or no sediment?
- 23 The rule is that if Muscadet is to accompany a dish, it is the best wine to assist in the cooking. Are you aware of this?
- 24 Are you also aware that if you add wine during the cooking of a dish it should always be heated first?
- 25 Do you also know that the finer a white wine the less its subtleties should be masked by cold?
- 26 When cooling a white wine, are you aware that one or two hours at most in a refrigerator is sufficient?
- 27 Do you know the rule that a Muscadet wine should not be served as cold as a Blanc de Blancs?
- 28 Are you aware that twenty minutes in a freezer is the maximum for a white wine?
- 29 Do you realise that good white wines should never be chilled too rapidly in a freezer?
- 30 Do you appreciate that there is no need to wrap a Muscadet in a white napkin unless it's being served from an ice bucket?
- 31 Are you aware that iced-water is more effective than ice cubes alone when cooling a wine?
- 32 Muscadet being a younger, lighter wine should be drunk before older, heavier wines.
- 33 Do you know the rule that at an all white wine meal, one should start with the more subtle wines and then move on to the more aromatic ones?
- 34 When serving Muscadet, or other white wine do you always use glasses with a crystal bowl to show off the colour of the wine?
- 35 Are you aware that both natural sunlight and artificial light are harmful to wine in clear glass bottles?
- 36 Do you know that the ideal temperature for storing Muscadet and all white wines is 7-12°C?
- 37 Do you always dry wine glasses whilst they are still warm with a lint-free cloth, preferably a linen one?
- 38 Do you always store your wine glasses upright so that air cannot penetrate in the bowl and prevent them becoming stained?
- 39 Do you always inspect the cork to ensure that it does not contain weevils?
- 40 Do you like the crisp, dry flavour of Muscadet?
- 41 Do you like the price?

Stowells of Chelsea
WINE BOX

**MUSCADET
DE SÈVRE ET MAINE**
APPELLATION CONTRÔLÉE



Stowells of Chelsea
WINE BOX

Breath meter test record is admissible

Gairmster v Marlow
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice MacPherson
(Judgment delivered December 8)

Basingstoke Justices were wrong to treat a "test record" produced by a Lion Intoximeter 3000 on a motorist's breath samples as an inadmissible document to evidence the proportion of alcohol in his breath. Contrary to the justices' opinion, the word "specimen" within the meaning of section 10(3)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 as substituted by section 25(3) of and Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court unanimously so held when allowing an appeal by the prosecutor's appeal by way of case stated from dismissal by the justices of an information charging that Russell John Gary Marlow, aged 26, of Basingstoke, drove a motor car on a road after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion thereof in his breath was 111 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, exceeding the prescribed limit of 35 microgrammes in 100 millilitres, contrary to section 6(1) of the 1972 Act as substituted.

The justices dismissed the information on the ground that there was no case to answer.

In the stated case the justices set out, as the "test record", a part of a document:

TEST	UG%	TIME
1	33	01:35 GMT
2	0	01:36 GMT
3	114	01:38 GMT
4	0	01:38 GMT
5	111	01:39 GMT
6	0	01:39 GMT
7	53	01:40 GMT

The justices asked whether they were right in dismissing the information and in excluding the evidence of the police officer who conducted the test to explain or interpret the meaning of the contents of the document. Their Lordships answered that if he had been shown to be a trained operator of the machine and knew what the meaning of the signs was, there was no reason why he should not give evidence if required, but it seldom would be required to explain his meaning. The case was remitted to the justices to continue the hearing.

An application by the defendant for a certificate that a point of law of general public importance was involved in the decision was adjourned. Their Lordships stated

Stepdaughter is awarded £19,000 from estate

Leach v Linderman and Others

In order for a person to satisfy section 1 (1) (d) of the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 as having been a person who (not being a child of the deceased) had been treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to a marriage to which the deceased had at any time been a party, it was not necessary for the treatment to have occurred during the course of the marriage. Mr Michael Warden, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery

Court held that leave to appeal to the House of Lords was in any event refused. An order was made for payment of the prosecutor's costs out of central funds.

Section 10(3) provides "Evidence of the proportion of alcohol in a specimen of breath... may... be given by the production of a document... purporting to be... (a) a statement automatically produced by the device by which the proportion of alcohol in the breath is measured and a certificate signed by a constable... (which may... be contained in the same document as the statement) that the statement relates to a specimen provided by the accused at the date and time shown in the statement."

Mr John Spokes, QC and Mr Guy Boney for the prosecutor; Mr Michael Dineen for the defendant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the information was read on September 12. The evidence called before the justices, according to their stated case, was that of Police Sergeant Frank Younghusband, who described on oath how on May 11, 1983, at Basingstoke he had conducted a test of the defendant's breath using the Lion Intoximeter 3000, and of a document, the "test record", which was identified by Sgt Younghusband as having been issued by the Intoximeter and signed in two places by himself on May 11.

At that point the defendant's counsel objected that the "test record" was not a "statement" within section 10(3)(a) and therefore inadmissible as evidence of the proportion of alcohol in the defendant's breath.

The subject of such a case knew that he had been breathalysed at the roadside, and, presumably, knew why. He had been taken to the police station. His car had presumably been left behind or other arrangements made with regard to it.

He knew that he had had two breath samples; presumably he had seen the pieces of paper come out of the machine. He had been handed a copy to sign — the defendant had refused to sign it. He did not know that 35 was the limit he ought to have.

The answer to the first question asked by the justices was that they were not correct in law in treating the "test record" document as inadmissible as evidence of the proportion of alcohol in the defendant's breath in that it was not a "statement" within the meaning of section 10(3) (a) of the 1972 Act.

He then looked at the document and if he did that, it seemed to his Lordship that, taken as a whole his treatment could fairly be said to have been, in a broad sense, "relation to" that marriage and awarded an immediate payment of £19,000 to an able-bodied woman of 55, who had made her own way in life since she was 21, and who was his stepdaughter of the intestate deceased, out of an estate of £45,000.

In answer to their second question, if the police officer had been shown to be a trained operator of the machine, they were wrong in that conclusion also.

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice MacPherson agreed.

Solicitors: Mr R. J. Gwilliam, Winchester, Emersons, Basingstoke.

The justices asked if, at that stage, he was not capable of reading the document or if possibly he was unable to read he could put it in his pocket and go away and obtain help if necessary or when he recovered his senses could read it himself.

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Driver was tested too soon

Horton v Twells
Before Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Mr Justice Taylor
(Judgment delivered December 8)

His Lordship disagreed. It seemed to him that, as the Act provided, the document as a whole contained both a statement and a certificate.

It contained the certificate that the specimen had been provided by the defendant as the Act required and it also contained an explanation to the effect that it was required of the meaning of the figures.

The defendant reading the document would read that test ONE was 114. Casting his eye to the top of the column he saw "6" at the top of the same with TWO.

In his Lordship's judgment it would be abundantly clear to anyone that the document did not mean that, he was being tested against the statutory limit. In the first test (114) it was exceeded as it was in the second test (111).

It seemed to his Lordship perfectly plain to be a document purporting to be a statement automatically produced and also a certificate signed by a constable. It was one document containing an explanation of the meaning.

Mr Dineen's first point about right separated itself.

His Lordship would, if necessary, go further because it seemed to him that a statement in the circumstances of the present case was a formal written account of the facts providing the subject with the information that he was entitled to have. The fact that to some, or even most, people it might not be immediately intelligible did not prevent it being a "statement".

A subsidiary point of Mr Dineen was that there was no reference in the statement to "operator".

On the facts of the case, unless the constable was shown, the constable had acted in good faith. Accordingly the justices were not justified in upholding the submission of no case.

They should have directed their minds to whether the constable was acting bona fide and accordingly the case should be sent back to them to continue with the hearing.

Where police officers were faced with a person who refused to wait 20 minutes before a test, officers should consider proceeding to arrest under section 8(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 for failing to provide a specimen of breath.

Mr Justice Taylor agreed.

Solicitors: Wootton & Sons, Turner Garrett & Co, Addlestone.

Breach of safe port clause

C-Trade of Geneva SA v Uni-Ocean Lines Pte Ltd of Singapore
Before Lord Justice Stephenson and Mr Justice Kerr
(Judgment delivered December 21)

A defendant had been lawfully arrested by a police constable on the basis of a breath test that indicated that the proportion of alcohol in his blood exceeded the prescribed limit. If the police constable had acted lawfully, operating the breath device, although the device had not been operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing an appeal by way of case stated brought by Mr John McGuinness for the defendant, Mr Stephen Twiss for the defendant.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by the charterers of a vessel required in a port had breached the safe port provisions of a charterparty, arbitrators had to consider the prospective safety of the port at the time the vessel was ordered there and not the question whether the port had become unsafe because the vessel was there because of some abnormal occurrence.

Further, having found that charterers were in breach by ordering the vessel to an unsafe port or by failing to countermand such an order, the arbitrators had to go on to consider whether the trapping of the vessel was foreseeable to the charterers or whether it was a consequence flowing from the charterers' breach.

The vessel discharged its cargo until October 21. Meanwhile heavy fighting between land and sea proceeded from September 21, including hostilities in the Shant. Navigation in the Shant ceased during the afternoon of September 22 and had not reopened.

At the time of the award the law laid emphasis on the safety of the port at the time of the order but upon the question of whether or not the port had become unsafe at any time when the vessel was there and if so whether that had been due to some abnormal occurrence or not.

That doctrine was reversed by the House of Lords in *Kodros Shipping Corporation v Monrovia & Empire Cuban de Fleites (No 2) (The Eva)* (1983) AC 736 and described by Lord Justice Stephenson as "a clear and simple" award.

Lord Justice Stephenson said that a secondary obligation was imposed on charterers if port became unsafe after a proper order had been given to the vessel to proceed to such port at a time when it was still prospectively safe.

That secondary obligation was that the prior order must then be countermanded or, if the vessel was already at the port in question that she must then be ordered to leave if it was still possible to avoid the effect of the unsafety.

It was apparent that the arbitrators proceeded on an erroneous basis in law. Having found that Basrah was already an unsafe port when the charterers ordered the vessel to proceed there on September 20, they nevertheless concluded that the charterers were not in breach of the charterparty when the contrary was now clearly established by *The Eva*.

Further, even if there had been no fresh order, as found by the arbitrators, but merely a failure to

prospective

safe

port

order

<p

Theatre

Scream of hatred

Sufficient Carbohydrate

Hampstead

Announced as "Dennis Potter's first original stage play," this is an angry piece about five tourists being very rude to each other on a Greek island. In the chaotic confines of Tanya McCullin's villa set, the play begins as a messy Anglo-American dogfight over the future of a chain of British foodstores.

Two directors of the company are on holiday with their wives. Jack's family founded the store, then sold out to the Americans who now want to get rid of him as a rude, obstructive, alcoholic. The holiday has been arranged to give the American director, Eddie, a chance to get rid of Jack.

Hosities get under way in the early morning sunshine, with Jack springing to the defence of hand-picked mushrooms and Eddie no less vigorously putting the case for biotechnology.

Irving Wardle

Fishing

Arts Theatre

"If only she would get married," think Mum and Aunt May as Ingrid sits expecting her second child in the tower-block flat she shares with yet another man who beats her up.

This last play in the Arts' rewarding black playwrights' season places a vulnerable, perplexed character between two ways of life. Her friend Jean, planning to give her man the push, is all for freedom and drawing his wife to the dregs.

Her cousin in Manchester (mercifully unseen) is marrying a nice, non-smoking clerk, with her as bridesmaid in pink chiffon with off-white lace on cuffs, collar, and what Auntie calls "the upper chest." "Very nice," comments Jean through her teeth.

Apart from its black milieu, Paulette Randall's play covers partly familiar territory, but it brings humour and much tenderness to the anguish of a character who cannot do the expected thing yet finds choosing her own path painful.

It also constitutes an engaging plea that best friends are better than lovers: Ingrid and Jean know and love each other so well, have more fun together than with anyone else, finish each other's sentences, sometimes fight, but cannot stay angry for long.

Yvonne Gidden (Ingrid) tries desperately to dispose of a dead goldfish, suffers a hilariously fragile hangover, pathetically protests "Jean, he doesn't beat you every night"; even ebullient Ellen Thomas is furious and hurt to find that the man she was going to walk out on has walked out first.

We see them in plenty of crises, but at least they have each other. And the two matriarchs are wonderfully contrasted. Corinne Skinner-Carter makes a Mum of few words and much understanding, and Peggy Phango flowers startlingly after a few drinks from a tight-lipped disapprover into a joyful Bacchante.

However, there is more to the piece than that. Besides its contrast between a sagging Britain and a thrusting

Anthony Masters

Opera

Carmen

Dominion Theatre

The Welsh National Opera's tatty, beleaguered carnival of a *Carmen* was much appreciated when it opened in Cardiff in May, but it seems to have run out of steam on the run to

London. Now Lucian Pintilie's production is not sharp enough to be a send-up, not important enough to be a tragedy and certainly not vivid enough to be any kind of a theatrical entertainment. With no disrespect to the Prince and Princess of Wales who were with us in the Dominion theatre, one must suggest that the wily *Carmen* watchers on Wednesday night were at home with Peter Brook on Channel 4.

The Welsh and Romanians, meanwhile, were failing to live up to their own aim of astonishing, an aim implicit from the treatment of the prelude, and the splendid irrelevance of using the fate music to accompany a tightrope act. The trouble is that once you have flung your midgets around a few times there are still three and a half acts to go.

Pintilie, very reasonably, finds it hard to take *Micaela* seriously, but unfortunately there is no purchase in pointing up the weakness of your material unless you do it in outrageously bad taste. A model village and a crucifix wheeled onto the stage were merely as feeble as *Micaela* herself, and they cruelly distract one from the finest singing of the evening, coming from Helen Field in this role.

Jennifer Jones returned as Carmen, amused and dangerous, but not vocally flamboyant enough to usurp the stage as she should. This was a little surprising when he had such poor competition. Jacque Trussell as Don Jose and Henry Newmarch as Escamillo were nowhere in the running, and at times this unconvincing production began to look disastrously like a comment on their interpretations. Nothing, though, could destroy the splendour and excitement being engendered in the pit by Mark Ermler.

Paul Griffiths

THE ARTS

Cinema

Harking back, falling down

Trading Places (15)

Empire 2

Liquid Sky (18)

ICA Cinema, Classic Chelsea

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (PG)

Lumière

Biddy (U)

Minema

House of Evil (18)

Classic Oxford Street

The most terrifying cinematic moment of 1983 occurred last weekend at the Dominion Theatre, London, when Victor Sjöström's silent classic *The Wind* (1928) approached its delirious climax. On screen, Lillian Gish staggered through the eye of a symbolic storm, surrounded by dust, swirling clouds and debris in the orchestra pit. Carl Davis's percussion players threw up a wall of noise. Just when matters reached fever pitch, a flaming horse pounded through the sky, reducing Miss Gish's emotions (and those of the spectators) to smitherines. No one could ask for a greater instance of cinema's power to shake one's being.

Last week's presentation of *The Wind*, and Griffith's fragrant *Broken Blossoms*, not only dwarfed most of the other offerings at the London Film Festival, they made pygmies of the current commercial brood. John Landis's comedy, *Trading Places*, though has been a huge commercial hit in the United States during its summer release. The film opens here close to Christmas partly because Christmas trees and Santa Claus feature among the props; but mostly, one suspects, because Hollywood has few light-hearted romps to hawk.

The material harks back to the vintage comedies of Capra, Preston Sturges and Gregory La Cava, where American society was purposefully laid out, dissected and lampooned. Here, we see two specimens on the slab: Louis Winthorpe III, a smug product of money and privilege (played by pudgy-faced Dan Aykroyd), and Billy Ray Valentine, a resilient survivor of the urban jungle (Eddie Murphy, from the

thriller *48 HRS*). Two mischievous moguls, played with alacrity by veterans Ralph Bellamy and Don Ameche, choose to test the benefits of breeding by making the couple swap places. Winthorpe becomes a penniless outcast, touchingly ridiculous in Winthorpe's house, Harvard tie, butler and brokerage job.

John Landis decorates this schematic tale with modest visual eloquence. His cameras catch the tortuous absurdity of a rain-swept Aykroyd staring through the window at his former colleagues; crisp editing isolates Murphy's sideways looks as Bellamy pedantically explains the use of pork bellies in bacon. Performances, too, oil the script's wheels: Denholm Elliott raises a querulous eyebrow and utters "Egg nog?" as though comic British butlers had just been invented. The entire film, indeed, is an egg nog: it slips down parched throats easily enough, though the nutritional deficiencies should still be pointed out.

Timothy Harris and Herschel Weinograd's script toys with its situations rather than exploits them, and the verbal wit of their Hollywood models is nowhere approached. Truly successful comedy need not be discipline: *Trading Places* is so prolific that a train bearing the leading characters in disguise, New Year revellers and a caged ape is needlessly catapulted into the script, with no decent gags for recompense.

"There's something strange going on here — I'm going to leave," mutters one of the bystanders in the outlandish *Liquid Sky*, made in New York by excited Russian emigrés. It may seem tempting to follow suit: the characters are the kind worth crossing a street to avoid; most of their words have four letters; the material, furthermore, hardly sustains 112 minutes. Yet *Liquid Sky* should not be brushed aside lightly. The bizarre production context alone earns the film a footnote in cinema history, and the blend of punk music, punk fashion show and science-fiction parody exerts a definite exotic appeal.

In its time, the Russian experimental film had drawn open sustenance from American popular culture; jazz and silent screen slapstick were potent influences during the 1920s. But director Slava Tsukerman, cameraman Yuri Neyman and their partners are children of an older, colder Soviet era: with the lurid shenanigans of *Liquid Sky* they are clearly relishing forbidden fruit. New York's punk underworld is viewed with a cold but sharply observant eye: personal relationships are entirely destructive, yet the people look highly glamorous — multi-coloured mannequins daubed with Japanese delicacy.

The production team's alien status is ingeniously built into the plot. There is an alien visitor on the heroine's rooftop, embedding glass arrows in the heads of anyone experiencing orgasm; there is a German scientist glued to a telescope, sharpening his accent on lines like "The alien craft is about the size of a dinner plate". Viewed as a cock-eyed scientific documentary, the film's sluggishness suddenly becomes understandable: all telescope watchers must expect boredom.

Tsukerman's band were joined in the venture by the American punk dignitary Anne Carlisle; she co-wrote the script and plays two parts (one of them male) with haunting zombie aplomb. Her own New York apartment — a pleasure-dome of neon signs and mirrors — is also featured prominently on-screen; quite understandably, she moved elsewhere as soon as the production was over.

D. A. Pennebaker's David Bowie film *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* documents western taste from a more traditional angle: Bowie's last concert appearance as his character "Ziggy Stardust" is filmed with all the sophistication that a darkened Hammersmith Odeon allows. The footage was shot in 1973 as a video disc experiment for RCA; for this delayed theatrical release, Bowie remixed the music track (though imperfections remain). Pennebaker — director of the rock documentaries *Don't Look Back* and *Monetary Pop* — feels this is "more than just a concert film".

To the extent that Bowie's act crystallizes crucial popular trends, he is correct. But future historians will have a frustrating time discerning Bowie's astonishing costumes beneath the film's grainy surface. The audience, perversely, comes across more clearly, through flashing shots of ecstatic faces and waving arms; they seem like denizens of the inferno.

Biddy is a British aberration, devised and directed by Christine Edzard at the Rotherhithe studios of Sanshine Films. The tale of a Victorian nursemaid pottering into old age utilizes Edzard's flair for period accoutrements and whimsy (she was production designer and co-writer of *Tales of Beatrix Potter*); but hideously synchronized dialogue and an absence of dramatic thrust prove crippling handicaps.

The American horror piece *House of Evil*, written and directed by Mark Rosman, is ruined in turn by stunted imagination. Vicious mystery supposedly lurks in a college campus, but when mismatched characters talk about "the old cemetery" and "the old garage" we know precisely what is before us: old rubbish.

Geoff Brown



Eddie Murphy begs from Don Ameche in *Trading Places*

Dance

Catherine Ashmore



Consort Lessons, choreographed by David Bintley

Ballet out of music

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

Two new ballets on the same evening, one by a choreographer and designer new to the Royal Opera House, one by a guest conductor tackling ballet for the first time, where do I start? Perhaps with the thought that both the ballets are plotless, the first works of any substance in that genre to be created for this branch of the Royal Ballet in well over three years, so they provide a welcome counterbalance in a repertoire heavily (some of us think far too heavily) weighted with strong dramatics and old classics.

Richard Alston's ballet, *Midsummer*, gained more from the new conductor, Howard Williams, to direct Michael Tippett's *Fantasia Concertante* on a theme of Corelli, written in 1953, right after *The Midsummer Marriage*, and having some links with that work. The Covent Garden strings played brightly for him.

Alston lives up, to his claim, in Wednesday's creation, *Consort Lessons*. He has stretched his dancers hard, especially in making them move much faster than they are accustomed to go, continually crossing a wide area with swift, precise steps, and although he too has cast his ballet from strength, mainly among the younger women with some more experienced men, you can see that they find it an effort. If they can catch up with him, not only this ballet but their other roles will benefit.

Jennifer Jones returned as Carmen, amused and dangerous, but not vocally flamboyant enough to usurp the stage as she should. This was a little surprising when he had such poor competition. Jacque Trussell as Don Jose and Henry Newmarch as Escamillo were nowhere in the running, and at times this unconvincing production began to look disastrously like a comment on their interpretations. Nothing, though, could destroy the splendour and excitement being engendered in the pit by Mark Ermler.

There are plenty of crisper passages, notably a sextet for all the male dancers and a darting entry for Brind and the other woman soloist, Fiona Chaddick. Also, Alston (like David Bintley in the other new work) makes his cast use the whole stage more freely and broadly than they often do. On the other hand, I wonder whether the solid groupings of some entries in solid colours, are going to grow to seem more natural or less so?

Midsummer gives all its dancers plenty of steps to perform, something else that has tended to go by default recently in favour of pliant plasticine and manipulative adagios. He shows such a keen awareness of just what will make each of them look good that I am left uncertain whether he has been content to work within the very considerable capacities of a gifted young cast, or whether it is actually harder than it seems but with the difficulties all hidden.

There is no such uncertainty about Bintley's creation, *Consort Lessons*. He has stretched his dancers hard, especially in making them move much faster than they are accustomed to go, continually crossing a wide area with swift, precise steps, and although he too has cast his ballet from strength, mainly among the younger women with some more experienced men, you can see that they find it an effort. If they can catch up with him, not only this ballet but their other roles will benefit.

Bintley's music is the Stravinsky Concerto for piano and wind instruments, by Ashley Page that starts the ballet to the duet for Bryony Brind and Jonathan Cope that comes near the end. That couple, both long-limbed, achieve an attractive, almost gawky grace together, which might suggest a metaphor for young people learning how to relate to each other.

Television

Whether public schools enrich the national psyche or impoverish it is one of those arguments beloved of the British. William Boyd obviously belongs to the latter school of thought. The public school portrayed in his *Good and Bad Games* on Channel 4 last night was surely more public than most and lacked entirely the restraining presence of masters.

His plot, that a much-bullied boy would wait 10 years for revenge, is a melodramatic one at that, I found improbable and there was the further handicap that the same actors were required to play boys and adults with a 10-year gap between. This and the innumerable flashbacks made it difficult to know where one was.

So the story, despite the expertise of director Jack Gold, did not translate well to film. As the victim, Anton Lesser, with the aid of a moustache and beard, managed to hop back and forth over that age gap better than most and his performance, in the circumstances, was excellent. Martin Stanbridge too, as the sporting all-rounder, tolerated but not accepted, did well, but all in all, this moribund little deterrent to parents about to plunge back into their overdrifts for school fees did not come off.

It is not only boys at public schools who have problems, however, for it is a wicked world. *The Sniffer's Tale*, also on Channel 4, was the fifth in director-producer Jeff Perks' look at young East Enders. One hopes that its social implications would impress younger and possibly deprived viewers more than its detailed information concerning the practice of glue-sniffing and the relative merits of Bosnian, Ewostick and Thixofix. It is possible that this might not be so.

At least, they would look difficult but for the radiant poise and smooth, crisp exactness with which Collier dances them. She meets the challenge of Bintley's choreography with shining assurance, pushes her always admirable skills further than ever before, and as in other recent roles proves that she can still find new qualities to match new demands. I have never seen her dance more excitingly.

Collier is the star of the evening, in this and in MacMillan's *Faure Requiem* that completes the bill, but her colleagues in *Consort Lessons* keep up gamely. In particular, it is good to see Ferri being allowed for once to dance flat out without all that acting, and Jefferies allowed to cap a sequence of *tours en l'air* by the other men with a "double double" and a joking look of surprise delight.

Terry Bartlett's architectural setting, with its false perspective in the backdrop, perhaps adds to the vertiginous liveliness of the ballet, and his costumes with their varied stripes in warm colours are handsome. The new works together are a shot in the arm for the Covent Garden repertory, but the dose is so small as to seem homeopathic: you have only December 12, 17 and 30 on which to catch them.

John Percival

Rock

T-Bone Burnett

Dingwalls

When a man who could have understood for the young Robert Mitchum in *Thunder Road* — hooded peepers, unruly brown quiff, oddly pursed mouth — drawls through a rock 'n' roll recitation of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend", plays only the decent version of "Not Fade Away" heard since the Rolling Stones took away its individuality and turned it into a Bob Diddley song, recreates the spirit of the late Richie Valens and then gets the Dingwalls audience to join in with "You Are My Sunshine", only the terminally jaded could maintain indifference.

T-Bone Burnett is a Texan singer and writer who toured with Bob Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue in 1976, subsequently joined an obscure outfit called the Alpha Band, and then gets an appealing new album, *Proof Through the Night*, just released, featuring discreet guest appearances by Ry Cooder, Richard Thompson and Pete Townshend. To London on Wednesday night he brought a band including Andy Williams, son Andy Jr and David, who sang excellent backing harmonies; an outstanding stand-up bassist; a percussionist who played mostly congas and wire brushes; and his own impassioned amplified acoustic guitar. "This must be my beatnik phase", he said, but though there was a modicum of bop-talk and finger-snapping the music veered mostly between the light Tex-Mex pop-rock of *The Chipping Crickets*, the Bob Dylan of *Blood on the Tracks* and the Everly Brothers of *Instant Party*.

Burnett is a real charmer, laconically unassuming, slightly disorganized, but able to drop into the muted nightmare of "Heff and Disney", a powerful modern parable, without needing to draw undue attention to the change of trajectory. He accepted requests, cheerfully allowed the audience to detail a couple of monologues, and delivered a strong version of his new

"When the Night Falls", a song fit to join Springsteen's "Night" and "Prove it All Night", Jackson Browne's "Tender

SPECTRUM

Kenya: the rocky road from Uhuru

Kenya became independent 20 years ago on Monday. Xan Smiley finds it to be a land still struggling towards nationhood, and talks to Daniel arap Moi in his first interview since he succeeded Jomo Kenyatta

The first rule of writing about Africa is that comparisons are everything. It is no good coming from Europe and pontificating on one African country without knowing others. Every country in the African continent can be convincingly portrayed in a bleak light. Through no fault of the Africans (who often do make matters worse), Africa is ill-starred. Practically every country is an artificial patchwork creation. Boundaries - crazy straight lines and rectangles - were drawn with brutal crudity by colonial mapmakers. Ancient traditions were swept aside, hybrid societies hatched overnight, ashamed of the old ways but given only a veneer of the new.

Peoples - tribes - often far more different from each other than, say, Spaniards and Poles - were hurled together and told to become one. There are almost no nation-states in Africa. They have been told to create nationhood out of a host of diversity. Kenya is no exception. It is not a nation. It is trying to become one. It is remarkable that it has held together as well as it has.

The first rule is to look at the neighbours. Kenya has recently gathered an army of detractors, mostly from the left. Many of their criticisms contain more than a germ of truth: that there is too much corruption, that the grab-grab, freewheeling, often chaotic capitalism has lowered morality, that some of the rich are obscenely rich while the poor are too easily trampled. Yet by the standard of every neighbour, Kenya is an island of tolerance, prosperity and progress for most of its people.

Look clockwise: Uganda, groping back to economic sanity under the still unloved minority leader Milton Obote, will take a generation to recover a modicum of civil decency; southern Sudan, its rich potential unfulfilled, is drifting back toward civil war; bloodstained Ethiopia is beset by at least four regional rebellions and beholden to the Soviet Union; Somalia's leadership is near-bankrupt and beleaguered. Only Tanzania, under the once-plausible Nyere, for so long the darling of the progressive developmentalists, can stake a claim to equality with Kenya.

It is a false claim. Nyere's much mentioned barb that Kenya is a "man-eat-man" society is still blunted by the Kenyan retort that in Tanzania "man eats nothing". It is true that Tanzania is more egalitarian than Kenya. There is no great individual wealth. In both countries there remain millions living on subsistence. But in Tanzania the mediocrity is deeper, the poverty is more uniform.

Impressive figures are ritually trotted out - unverifiable and increasingly contested - to show advances in literacy, water supply and health care. Yet with less fanfare Kenya has done better on all levels, although contrary to standard wisdom, Kenya's agricultural potential is less than Tanzania's.

Kenya took longer to make primary schooling free and most still pay for secondary school. But the numbers of

A government with a sense of determination

secondary students in Kenya (up from 31,000 at Independence to 438,000 today) far surpass those in Tanzania.

Kenyan medical treatment, though often maladministered, easily outpoints Tanzania where drugs, anaesthetics, even gauze and soap, are unobtainable in many hospitals.

Agricultural development overall, Kenya is far ahead, the Tanzanian dream of *ujamia* (collectivization of villages) having turned sour years ago.

Tanzanian sneers that the former white highlands of Kenya have simply passed to a new black elite are rubbish. There is indeed a mini-class of rich black Kenyans, there remains a landless minority who feel cheated by the fruits of independence plucked by others.

But most of the white settlers' farms were transferred to cooperative societies, often badly administered. Kenya's most justifiable boast is the growth of intensively farmed peasant smallholdings. Maladministration of bureaucracy and corruption is threatening the wellbeing of the small coffee farmer, the Kenyan cotton and py-

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But many thousands of Kenyan smallholders have become modestly prosperous through coffee, tea, sugar and tobacco. Often in harness with those monsters of the Tanzanian demonology, the multi-national companies like Booker McConnell and BAT.

There are probably five million Kenyans out of 17 million who are now part of the peasant cash economy. Another two million or so have become urban. Many of the rest stay poor. But overall that is a fine achievement in 20 years.

All the same, Kenya's economy is shakily - like even the best in Africa. Fuel swallows 55 per cent of foreign earnings. The world recession has thumped tourism and played havoc with the prices of export crops like coffee. Government spending has been profligate, and too often corruption has led to the wrong contracts being signed. Three years ago Kenya had its first shortages of such goods as flour.

The IMF has arrived with its tough conditions for loans and already, while Tanzania still faces shortages of tea, sugar and soap and petrol, Kenyan shops are full and businesses are predicting that they are coming out of the trough.

Government spending is sharply down, people are worse off than they were five years ago and inflation is around 24 per cent, but the recent elections and cabinet shake-up have lent a sense of determination to the Government.

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But many thousands of Kenyan smallholders have become modestly prosperous through coffee, tea, sugar and tobacco. Often in harness with those monsters of the Tanzanian demonology, the multi-national companies like Booker McConnell and BAT.

There are probably five million Kenyans out of 17 million who are now part of the peasant cash economy. Another two million or so have become urban. Many of the rest stay poor. But overall that is a fine achievement in 20 years.

All the same, Kenya's economy is shakily - like even the best in Africa. Fuel swallows 55 per cent of foreign earnings. The world recession has thumped tourism and played havoc with the prices of export crops like coffee. Government spending has been profligate, and too often corruption has led to the wrong contracts being signed. Three years ago Kenya had its first shortages of such goods as flour.

The IMF has arrived with its tough conditions for loans and already, while Tanzania still faces shortages of tea, sugar and soap and petrol, Kenyan shops are full and businesses are predicting that they are coming out of the trough.

Government spending is sharply down, people are worse off than they were five years ago and inflation is around 24 per cent, but the recent elections and cabinet shake-up have lent a sense of determination to the Government.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Pat Jones is caught in a poverty trap. It has cost her her husband, her home and her happiness, as she tells Veronica Grocock

Drowning in a surging sea of debt

When Mrs Pat Jones first learnt that she had to give up her Birmingham home, she was heartbroken. It was the final and most harrowing blow in a long fight against accumulating debts, and she describes it as "like being kicked by a mule".

"We had struggled for so long, scraped the barrel for two or three years trying to keep on top of the mortgage (if nothing else), and now it's all gone. We've lost everything".

Pat, aged 35, is a former nursing auxiliary and mother of six children: four girls and two boys, aged from 17 to 6. She is a cheerful, sensible person, but her face shows signs of strain as she recounts the troubled story of the family's money problems.

Before Birmingham Council repossessed it last month, they had all lived for 10 years in the house on Woodgate Valley Estate on the outskirts of the city. In 1981 they decided to take up the council's offer of a 100 per cent

mortgage.

"I always wanted to buy a house of my own", Pat recalls. "We moved into it when it was new, and I think that gives you an incentive. We were happy. It was a lovely house. We were going to do so much..."

Her husband, Barry, had chosen to take voluntary redundancy in 1979. He was a machinist with a car components firm that (as he had predicted) became bankrupt. He and his father then joined forces in a painting and decorating business.

"It got off the ground and everything was going fine, but in his first year he earned only £3,000 which, to keep eight of us, was just a joke. I was working at the time, at St. Mary's Hospice, and when his work started to fall off, I carried us through on my wages of £48 a week", Pat says.

Soon, almost imperceptibly, they found themselves caught in a vicious, downward spiral. "The rot set in when his work declined. Everything declined with it."

Who can help when the money runs out?

There are more than three million children in Britain whose parents are on the poverty line. As unemployment rises, a growing number of families are finding themselves steeped in debt. Today's debtors are not so much the "won't pay" but the "can't pay". A recent report by the National Consumer Council and Welsh Consumers Council describes who gets into debt, why and how, and what happens to them.

Mrs Shelagh Salter, chairman of the Welsh Consumer Council, explains: "The single most important cause of consumer debt today is a sudden unexpected drop in income - such as that which is caused by redundancy, short-time working, illness, a death in the family or marriage break-up."

"Knocked for six by an event like that, people who previously paid their bills promptly and responsibly

may suddenly find themselves with little hope of repaying what they owe. Frozen in a blind panic, they may do nothing at all - except hope for a miracle. They don't know where to turn for advice and help - there is a severe shortage of money advice services. They may be ignorant of their rights and of the chances that the law may take against them if they don't pay. Instead of doing the sensible thing and telling their creditors at the outset about their financial circumstances (which may ensure sympathetic treatment) they tend to keep quiet."

It is not easy to measure the full extent of debt in Britain today, says the report, because information is patchy. "But one thing is clear", says the National Consumer Council's Elizabeth Stanton, "it's growing. And although only a minority of people may be affected, for them it can be a nightmare."

forces" as a "material factor" employers could use in their defence. But it is precisely those "market forces" which allow women to earn only 74 per cent of what men earn. And the percentage is falling. What price then satisfying the EEC directive on equal pay?

Then there is the Sex Equality Bill. Among other things, it aims to introduce the concept of "equal value" into a long-overdue consolidation of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Act. It also incorporates half the amendments to those Acts proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 1982.

But it has grave defects. For instance, on this vexed equal value concept, it concentrates on collective agreements, "recommending that cases which may have a "substantial effect" on such agreements be referred to the central arbitration committee. That has some merit, yet Europe requires the right to determination of equal value claims by "judicial process", which means an individual before a court. The central arbitration committee is no court. But the industrial tribunal is.

More importantly, however, the Bill is designed to make unlawful discrimination on grounds of homosexuality. But discrimination on grounds of sexual preference is not discrimination on grounds of sex, and the Bill cannot pretend that it is.

What the Government should do now is produce new primary legislation containing the EOC's proposed amendments. Only then will the need for complicated subordinate legislation be over, and we will cease to be found constantly in breach of European law. But it shows no sign of doing so.

Today's debate is of enormous importance, however, and the Bill, despite reservations, is deserving of support, for it is a brave beginning to a long overdue process of establishing real equal treatment for women in the United Kingdom.

Speaking in the Commons in July, the minister added "market



Pat Jones with her family, from left, Nathan, Donna, Temple, Emma, Holly and Tara: "We've lost everything"

Birmingham's Money Advice Centre, to which Pat turned for advice in June, has now compiled an administration order itemizing the family's debts. This arranges for a fixed amount to be divided among the creditors in agreed weekly instalments.

Then there are all the "unseen" extras, such as children's clothing, school photographs, and washing-machines that break down - as Pat's did recently: "It cost me £10. I had to borrow that".

Pat and Barry have now separated, after 17 years of marriage. It was no stormy, hammer-and-tongs parting, she says, but a direct result of their recent vicissitudes. "It's really very sad, because we used to get on really well, and he's a good father. We've had some nice times..."

She groans at the thought of Christmas, remembering last year when "we sat here without a drink or anything. The kids had their things. It was the first year that Mum and Dad didn't come to us on Christmas Day. I think it was just because the atmosphere was so bleak."

When you are on the breadline, feeding a family of six is a perpetual worry, especially during the school holidays: (the children have free school meals). "I do things like sausage and mash, egg and chips. But meat is a luxury."

The eldest son, Temple, 16, is staying with

● More education in consumer literacy and money management skills, which are needed by all school children to prepare them for adult life.

● Public bodies and commercial lenders should be sensitive to the individual circumstances of those who owe them money.

● Fuel boards and water authorities should use disconnection only as a last resort.

Debtors and their families must be protected from harassment, says the report, and expert money advice early on, before problems get out of hand, is crucial. Mrs Stanton says: "We look for a system that is firm but fair, effective but humane."

Of more than five million inquiries dealt with annually by citizens' advice bureaux, 180,000 involve debt. A report from the West Midlands, *Debt in the Recession*,*

published earlier this year, suggests that around 20 per cent of their workload involves money-related problems. Fifty per cent of the project's cases were unemployed, with the failure of small businesses coming a close second.

Sheila Gibbons, a project worker and author of the report, said: "Debt is often thought to result from the ease with which people can take on credit. But most of the problems I dealt with involved the payment of basic essentials such as rent, rates, gas, electricity and clothing."

An estimated £9 million of debt has been handled by CABs in the West Midlands during 1983, a figure believed to be just the tip of the iceberg.

*Debt in the Recession: The report of the Money Advice Development Project, a project funded by the West Midlands County Council.

● The report includes examples such as the following:

● Between 1979 and 1982 the proportion of loans from the 19 biggest building societies which were more than six months in arrears doubled from 0.19 per cent to 0.42 per cent.

● The number of tenants in rent arrears between 1980 and 1982 rose by almost half, and the amount outstanding more than doubled, among 13 Welsh housing authorities.

It also makes certain recommendations for helping to prevent debt:

● The organism which causes the pneumonia known as Legionnaires' disease is commonly found in British hospitals and hotels, experts from the Public Health Laboratory Service have discovered.

One laboratory found that 36 out of 54 hotels and hospitals had the organism *Legionella* in their water systems.

These findings, reported in the *Lancet*, should not evoke the panic which surrounded the first recognized outbreak of Legionnaires' at an American Legion convention seven years ago. The experts explain that it is simply more evidence that the organism is common and in most cases does not much harm.

However, *Legionella* can cause sometimes fatal pneumonia in individuals who are already weakened by an underlying illness such as another chest infection, cancer or an immune system deficiency, and the findings do illustrate that measures to prevent these cases will have to be taken in a large number of establishments.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Careful steps to rubella vaccination

The PHLS experts, sponsored by the DHSS, hope to discover just where the organism is harboured - evidence points to hot water systems - and to devise ways of preventing its growth.

Child fears

Young children with chronic constipation are often miserable and a great concern to their parents. Pain from straining to defecate leads to fear of going to the lavatory and a temporary loss of the reflex of responding to a full bowel. Some parents become so worried that the child is sent to hospital where the impacted faeces are removed and the child examined to make sure there is no obstruction.

Parents and child are usually reassured that nothing is wrong, but as soon as they all go home again the child slips back into the old pattern.

Increasingly, however, child psychiatrists and psychotherapists are becoming involved in helping children and parents change their behaviour at home. Dr Alison Fraser, tutor in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Manchester, has worked with children who had problems with involuntary soiling.

The impetus of the scheme is that children should be kept out of hospital because investigations can be counter-productive. The families were visited at home by Dr Fraser, or one of her colleagues, and asked to keep a record of the child's behaviour.

The children were first reminded to go to the lavatory regularly. They were then rewarded with a star or extra playtime with their parents. Children were further rewarded if they went to the lavatory without prompting and most importantly, any soiling was ignored.

Of the 55 children involved in the 10-month scheme, improvement was noticed in more than 60 per cent.

Critical days

There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that drinking in early pregnancy may be the most harmful time for unborn children. The foetus is well formed by the end of the first three months of pregnancy and it seems that there may be "critical days" within that period, when an excess of alcohol may lead to a baby being born with abnormalities - recognized as the foetal alcohol syndrome. But when the days fall is still open to speculation and research.

Women who continue to drink in early pregnancy, but then stop after being advised to do so, may be at risk. Dr Paul Slater and Dr Prina Ever-Hadani argue in *The Lancet* that this raises the question whether in normal times Jerusalem has too many doctors.

Water menace



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THE TIMES DIARY

Will he, won't he?

Exactly who wrote what to whom in the Yorkshire Television/Ministry of Defence/IBA debate concerning tomorrow's televised transmission of *The Day After* promises to be more interesting than the programme itself. The Ministry claimed that Yorkshire's first written approach to Michael Heseltine asked only "would he be the opportunity to go on television?" after the programme.

Yorkshire Television seem to remember that the request to Heseltine took the form of a ten-paragraph letter, telecast to the Ministry on November 30, outlining exactly what they had in mind for the Ministry to do - that is, be interviewed by Robert Kee and take part in a panel discussion along with Robert McNamara and General Bernard Rogers. (After the telex was despatched, it was learned that General Rogers was unable to appear on the programme.)

Mr Heseltine didn't reply to Yorkshire or even send them a copy of the letter that he subsequently wrote to the IBA stating that the political direction of the film was unbalanced. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine received a reply from Lord Thomson, chairman of the IBA, who didn't disclose the contents of his letter to Yorkshire either.

By lunchtime yesterday Yorkshire, having been kept in the dark by practically everyone, were of the opinion that the Minister had decided not to appear but Mr Heseltine's assistant was saying, more promisingly: "I can't say that he wouldn't appear and I can't say that he can't."

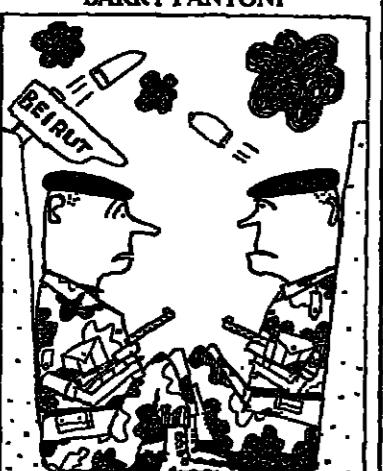
Head start

Imran Khan, the flamboyant captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has entered the beauty business, backing a hairdresser called Dar, formerly of Vidal Sassoon. According to the Asian newspaper *New Life*, "Dar has pampered the hair of celebrities like Elkie Brooks, Russell Harty and many top international models." Older ladies will be reminded of Dennis Compton tending his sleek good looks to the promoters of Brycetrem.

Double tempo

Some concertgoers are beginning to think that the GLC is "Working for the Arts in London" rather too strenuously. In its attempts to boost trade at the Royal Festival Hall, the council has introduced jazz sessions in the Music Box on the third floor. The sound of these sessions often filters through to the main concert hall, giving patrons two concerts for the price of one. People sitting near the back of the auditorium have complained that the jazz was often louder than the classical music they had come for. "The effect was rather like being in one of those restaurants where the music drowns out your conversation," said one complainant. Tonight, the Digby Fairweather Quartet plays against Dame Janet Baker and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. And may the loudest performer win.

BARRY FANTONI



Team spirit

President Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe has disclosed where he would like to be buried: Harare's Ruwa soccer stadium. The 47-year-old president, a football fanatic who helped found the Zimbabwe parliament's Tornado team, revealed his choice at a recent soccer stars' banquet.

• The French might feel superior eating oysters rather than turkey at Christmas. But this year we have an opportunity for one-upmanship. The Loch Fyne Oyster Company will deliver their oysters to you by Securicor.

Badge of courage

While Danuta Waleska is waiting to collect her husband's Nobel Prize in Oslo tomorrow, thousands of badges commemorating the occasion are being clandestinely produced in Poland. The badges simply say "Nobel '83" with a white dove fluttering below the large rounded letters made famous in the Solidarity logo. The badges are on sale in dimly lit kiosks in churches. Profits are going to the families of imprisoned Solidarity members.

Silver lining

The very day after the Athens summit failed, the European Commission announced it had granted "a negative clearance to a know-how agreement". It was apparently something about who was allowed to make the rubber things which keep rainwater out of cars. Perhaps Athens was not such a failure after all.

PHS

PR: call in the professionals

by David Burnside

Would Mrs Thatcher ever have considered putting Lord Whitelaw, Mr Biffen or Mr Pym in charge of coordinating and presenting Conservative policies during an election campaign?

Surely not. In the tight discipline of an election, the Conservative Party has shown, both in 1979 and even more so in 1983, that it is up to all the tricks of the public relations and marketing trade. The clearly amateur Labour campaign organization and the over-ambitiousness of the Alliance were no match for the slick and authoritative machine in Smith Square.

Why then is the Conservatives' performance or even their apparent understanding of public relations so abysmal when in government?

Let us take an example. No public relations man can change the fact that the burden of taxation has risen under this government. To try to claim otherwise would be blatant distortion - and quite unconvincing. Yet if the Government retains, from the Prime Minister down, a commitment to tax reduction, it should surely be within the wit of its PR men to orchestrate a popular campaign to promote the economic advantages of less tax - the advantages spelled out quite well in its two recent manifestos - and to explain what must be done to achieve it. On past performance, it is unlikely that such a campaign will be launched, let alone be successful.

Mr Pym, responsible for government PR from 1981 to 1982, could not coordinate the representation of the Government's policies

and "corporate image" because he did not really believe in either. Mr Biffen, between 1982 and 1983, adopted the fatalistic approach of a "true Tory" so convinced of the Conservatives' right to govern that re-election would come naturally rather than having to be worked for.

What are Lord Whitelaw's prospects? To start with, he can only fail in his stewardship if government public relations is confined to using his seniority to stop his more junior colleagues saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

As in policy formulation, policy projection can only be carried out successfully if the established government information service is denoted from its present dominating and influencing role in No 10 and government departments. There is a need for a fully-qualified Prime Minister's Department and it should contain a PR secretariat to serve Lord Whitelaw in his new-found role. Its staff should be drawn not from governmental service but from the private sector, and developed and financed on the same lines, which is accepted by all parties, as the small band of policy advisers who at present surround a number of ministers.

Certainly, a No 10 press secretary and departmental heads of information should be appointed (and trained) to manage the day-to-day dissemination of departmental

information. It is time these officials were relieved of the task of advising ministers on strategies for policy presentation. Public relations is not just about passing out data; it requires expertise, planning and, in a political environment, political sensitivity. By tradition, training and, largely, inclination, those currently charged with the task of coordinating government PR are not suited to the role.

Without radical structural change, government public relations will inevitably continue its present course, conflicting speeches from different ministers, poorly written, badly timed, and fired shot-gun fashion at the media and the public; ministers popping up on television and radio ill-prepared, half-hearted and often quite oblivious to the demands of this "modern" medium of communication; an accent on defence, post justification and minimization of damage.

It is a tragedy that a Conservative government has to rely on winning elections despite itself and hoping for continuing failures and inadequacies from its opponents, rather than running a sustained and planned PR campaign, culminating in the six-week, purrly party, barbie at the hustings. Just as they did in 1983, the party professionals and advisers will again, in 1987-8, be forced to rescue the vote-winning potential of the Conservative Party in the run-up to a general election, so decimated by its dire PR performance during its years in government.

The author is public relations director to the Institute of Directors.

David Butler asks why the Tories still ride high after six indifferent months

Winning in spite of themselves

Six months ago today Mrs Thatcher was re-elected with the biggest majority since the war. Today, surprisingly, polls show that the Government still retains the 43 per cent support recorded on June 9. The Conservatives do not seem to have paid any electoral price either for the embarrassments that have beset them, or for the recent improvements in Labour's image.

At the beginning of the new Parliament Mrs Thatcher was snubbed over the speakership, over MPs' pay, and over capital punishment. The Government has been visibly inept in its handling of foreign affairs and of the Parkinson scandal. And health service cuts have brought into salience one of the few issues on which it was patently a loser. Although the economic indicators have shown some improvement, Mr Lawson's utterances on taxation, taken in conjunction with the speeches of Mr Walker and Mr Pym, as well as the groans from the right wing, have hardly left an impression of a strong government confidently striving prosperity.

At the same time, Labour has come unscathed through what had promised to be a devastating leadership conflict. Neil Kinnock with his charm and potential appeal has replaced the low-rated Michael Foot. During the honeymoon period, the party has done nothing to remind the electorate of the divisions that proved so alienating in the previous parliament.

Why then has the electorate failed to show its accustomed volatility? After six indifferent months, the Government is still handsomely ahead in the polls. Not since 1961 has the party in power managed to stay sustained in front for more than 18 months. Have the rules of the political game changed fundamentally?

For the last five years the path of British politics has defied the expectations of participants and observers alike. In 1979, no one envisaged three million unemployed, and no one would have forecast the re-election of a government that presided over such record

joblessness. The automatic assumption that unemployment cost votes has been shattered.

But new assumptions grow up. The wild instability of the polls between December 1980 and June 1982 (confirmed by the results of by-elections and local elections) taught us to expect a continuing saw-saw from an ever more volatile electorate:

Voting intentions November 1982 to June 1982 (MORI)

Cons Lab Alliance

Highest 48 50 13%

Lowest 27 27 44%

When every party saw its strength change by more than 20 per cent within a few months, politics had reached a new pitch of uncertainty. But since then an unexpected stability has come over the scene:

Voting intentions July 1982 to December 1982 (MORI)

Cons Lab Alliance

Highest 47 36 30%

Lowest 41 26 18%

After the Bermondsey by-election and again during the general election, the Alliance crept up momentarily on Labour. But, by and large, since the Falklands war the broad pattern of party support has stayed within a point or two of Conservative 44 per cent, Labour 43, Alliance 20.

Since last October, Labour's support, which during the early stages of its leadership fight stayed at or below its general election abyss, has climbed up, staying perhaps two points from the Conservatives and six from the Alliance.

Voting intentions fluctuate in response both to events and to changing conceptions about the leaders and the parties. Leaders may matter less than many suppose, but certainly their images today are sharply differentiated. Collectively the Conservatives are seen as the party which "has the best leaders" (52 per cent say Conservative to 21 per cent Labour). Although Mrs Thatcher has a slightly lower rating on almost every quality today than she did nine months ago, perceptions of her outstanding characteristics are unchanged - 82 per cent

of party loyalty so spectacularly over the last 20 years are still at work.

Moreover, the essential weaknesses of each of the parties are still there. Labour's solid working-class base has been eroded by the spread of house ownership and the growth in non-manual employment. And its prospects are limited by its structure and its ideological involvements.

A year from now the process of reselection will start and news reports about the party will focus on the constituency troubles of some leading Labour MPs. The party is in financial straits and the current Employment Bill may make things far worse.

The Alliance, despite its 25 per cent of the votes last June, and its generally inoffensive image, has still to settle its internal disputes. The dualism of the two Davids may be far more damaging than any of the leadership troubles of the last few years. Moreover the Alliance will have great difficulty in securing publicity for anything save its quarrels. It must rely on stupidities by its larger rivals and a fortunate incidence of by-elections to reassess its prominence. It has a larger bridgehead than three years ago but the spectacular breakthrough of 1982 will be harder to repeat in 1985.

The Conservatives can look forward to four years in power. Yet their position is flawed. They have less support in votes than any Conservative government since 1922. They depend on a strong leader who is admired rather than loved; their secondary leaders are notably lacking in charisma or communication skills. The conflict between a middle-of-the-road pragmatism and a militantly free enterprise ideology has more divisive potential than ever before.

The economic future remains uncertain. It will be strange if, at the least, the Conservatives escape the mid-Parliament slump. Remember Orpington (1962)? Sutton and Cheam (1972)? Hillhead (1982)?

The author is a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

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It was five minutes past curtain-time, and I was beginning to wonder (knowing that at this particular theatre they tend to be punctual in starting) whether all was not well with the leading lady, when a familiar figure appeared in front of the curtain and said, with a kind of authoritative charm, "Ladies and gentlemen, I'm afraid we have a rather special kind of problem this evening, and we must ask you to leave the building at once - the police will notify you when you may return".

We rose, and proceeded in an orderly fashion to the exits. (Two members of the audience were seen running, but it was agreed by the rest of us that they must have been foreigners.) In the hour or so we spent on the pavement in weather that would have frozen a penguin, it was possible to reflect on certain questions of the day in a particularly concentrated manner.

First, it was noticeable that nobody at all was in doubt as to the meaning of the management's words, though "bomb", "telephone-call" and "danger" were not among them. Second, nobody grumbled, except at the perishing cold, those who might be presumed to have caused us our discomfort were not abused in absentia, nor was there any sense of outrage. Nobody even denounced the management for closing the cloakrooms as soon as the evacuation order was decided upon, and nobody ventured the opinion that they should have treated the telephone-call as the hoax it was overwhelmingly likely (and in the event proved to be).

Meanwhile, a few conclusions can be drawn. It is little more than a decade since serious urban terrorism in civilized western societies began; before that, there was nothing to worry about, apart from the internecine wars of Chicago gangsters, a brief flurry by the IRA just before the Second World War, and the random actions of those who were collectively known as anarchists and who were so little regarded as a threat to society that the type was always portrayed as a comic figure with a slow, a fringe beard, and a round "internal machine" which was gaily smoking and invariably labelled "Bomb".

Nous avons changé tout cela. And yet... Air piracy is of the same modernity as bomb-planting, but we no more grumble at or find in any way surprising the searches of

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Freezing out the urban terrorist

And finally, I had the melancholy and useless satisfaction of knowing that I solved this problem some years ago, and publicly announced my solution, too, though I did not expect anything to be done (nor was it), because the people who would have had to do the doing were those in charge of the telephone-service; I have no expectation that British Telecom will be any more heedful than their predecessors, but I may as well repeat my solution anyway. It is to change from our present telephone system of what is technically known as "Calling party release" to "Called party release". At present I call you and you hang up but I don't, you remain connected to me; if the system were inverted, the bomb-thrower (or genuine bomb planter for that matter) would hang up, having given his ominous message, and I find that he was still connected to his victim, thus enabling him to be traced promptly and with certainty.

Language and person at airports than can get hysterical, or even seriously cross, when we are turned out of a theatre. Every now and again a real bomb goes off in a city far removed from areas of endemic political violence; unless it causes large numbers of casualties (particularly among horses) it now makes hardly a ripple across the public consciousness. Baader-Meinhof Gangs, Red Army Fractions, Weathermen - they have killed people from time to time, but not more, I imagine, than are struck by lightning, or indeed are accounted for by the Charles Mansions and Dennis Nilsens and their like. (There are as many "ordinary" murders in Los Angeles in a single year as there have been corpses in Northern Ireland attributable to terrorism since the present "Troubles" began.)

Of course, the haters have batten on the activities of the killers in a manner which is unique to our time, and there must be dozens of false alarms to every real emergency. That makes life more troublesome, as those who were wheezing about their business the day after our pavement vigil in the cold could testify; if it comes to that, there were, no doubt, people who had to leave before the end of the performance to catch their last trains and buses, though if the curtain had gone up on time they could have stayed to the end.

What does all that amount to? A few horrible deaths and injuries; a fair quantity of inconvenience patiently and light-hearted by home (when the "sniffer" dogs arrived - gentle-looking Labradors - and lollipopped into the theatre as into a Disney cartoon, they were greeted by laughter rather than cheers); and, surely, the defeat, almost total, of the enemy. Are lives seriously disrupted or

made less worth living by such trivia? In Lebanon, life must be hardly bearable; in Belfast it must be at least very different, but I am not talking of the centres of violence, only of the violence in those countries where it is either random (as in West Germany and Italy) or designed (as in mainland Britain) to bring pressure to bear on those who will ultimately have to decide whether the centres of violence can be pacified by political action.

The truth that emerges is very encouraging. First in the United States, then in Western Germany, then increasingly in Italy, the political urban terrorist have been reduced to tiny handfuls of disheartened wretches. They have been reduced by patient, unwavering work on the part of democratic authorities and their forces of order, and by the refusal of the general public either to panic or to demand that peace should be achieved by surrender.

There was neither fear nor anger on that chilly pavement the other night; only an instinctive understanding that the price we were paying to keep our society not only free but calm and ordered was ludicrously small compared to what it was bringing. If the haters who turned us out into the night is caught, I think six months or so in the hoosegow would be appropriate, besides tending to discourage others like him, for it is not actually fair to freeze to death even if everybody around you is freezing to death as well. But if we have to waste a few minutes at an airport, or to get cold outside a theatre once a year, or even to be startled from time to time by a loud bang followed by the sound of fire-engines and ambulances, civilized life will not become impossible, or even seriously diminished. And even if we have to put up with those things for decades to come, that will remain true. Why, when in the interval of the resumed performance I met the spokesman who had made the original ominous announcement, I shook his hand warmly, in token that all was forgiven. And in truth there was nothing to forgive.

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David Watt

What's left when the dust settles?

When the nuclear catastrophe film *The Day After* (which Britain will see tomorrow) was shown on American television, it was followed not only by a homily from a senior member of the government but also by a panel discussion of experts. The most interesting contribution to this session came from Dr Carl Sagan, a physicist from Cornell University, who has become a considerable TV personality in the United States, thanks to his skillful presentation of programmes about space. Sagan's complaint was that it was far too soft. In his view, it grossly underestimates the horror of nuclear war by ignoring two of the most severe after-effects: darkness and cold.

The damage that might be done by this state of affairs depends, clearly, on its severity and duration. It is common ground that those who live beside oceans would be better off than others, because the sea acts as a store of heat. But if, as Mr Sagan and others now claim, the minimum temperature on the big American and Eurasian land masses after a 5,000-megaton war, were -23°C even in summer, and the light after a 10,000-megaton war too little to support photosynthesis for many months, the biological consequences might well be the disappearance of huge tracts of vegetation resulting, by a chain reaction, in the death of animals and in fearful famine.

This scenario is, or ought to be, music in the ears of any sensible person interested in peace. For if it is right, it has the priceless advantage of demonstrating to any American or Soviet leader that if he launches a massive nuclear attack it will produce his own destruction automatically. This is the first point:

that this is a quite new twist to the argument. In the past there has been plenty of talk about the danger likely to be caused by the debris thrown up into the atmosphere by a large number of nuclear blasts at ground level or a little above it. But after considerable debate, scientists have generally concluded in recent years that most of the dust would be of sufficient bulk to come down fairly fast and what was left in the stratosphere after a few days or



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AIMS FOR THE ALLIANCE

Nato foreign ministers are meeting in Brussels amid greater uncertainty than usual about the aims and prospects of the alliance. On the one hand there can be optimism that the military balance between East and West is in reasonable shape and that recently elected governments have been able to start implementing the Nato decision of 1979 on intermediate nuclear weapons. Clearly there is still a reassuring bedrock of confidence and continuity in the alliance. On the other hand there has been an increase in public unease which has expressed itself through opposition parties, primarily in Britain and West Germany, which have broken away from the central consensus on security.

If these parties do not return to the centre they could make the alliance itself an issue in future elections. It will therefore be more important than ever over the next few years for Nato to develop policies which are not only rational in themselves, but which also retain broad confidence among electorates. Public confidence in government is just as much part of security as military preparedness and economic prosperity. This is not just a matter of public relations and argument. The majority of voters should be credited with sufficient realism to distinguish the central issues of the alliance from peripheral disagreement, and to see when the alliance is properly representing the security interests of its members.

Controversy over missile deployments is not really a central issue. It is a symptom of a deeper feeling that the alliance has been losing its sense of direction and consequently its cohesion. Several areas of disagreement are involved. The Americans feel that Europe is not contributing

funds appropriate to its wealth, and that it is insufficiently conscious of the extent to which its security interests could be threatened from outside the Nato area by interruptions in the supply of oil or other raw materials. Europeans reply that if they spend more they will damage their precarious economic health and thereby reduce their security more than by forgoing some weapons or men. Many also argue that they do understand their dependence on lifelines to the Middle East and elsewhere but merely disagree with the Americans on the best means of protecting them.

There have also been growing debates about the extent to which Nato defence depends on the early use of nuclear weapons. New developments in guidance system and other areas of technology make it possible to have a much more effective conventional defence, so that the use of nuclear weapons could be delayed, but these new weapons are expensive. Much could be saved by better standardization of Nato equipment, but at some point electorates may have to be asked whether they want to make the financial sacrifices necessary to realize their wholly understandable desire for less reliance on nuclear weapons – particularly the West German electorate since that is the critical part of Nato's frontier.

Meanwhile Nato will have to tackle another major source of disquiet, which is the widespread feeling in Europe that it has lost sight of its obligation, regularly reaffirmed in Nato documents, to pursue security through political and diplomatic means as well as military. The two tracks of Nato policy – military preparedness and negotiation – are not confined to the decision on missile deployments. There is no

A LITTLE PIECE OF ENGLAND

Calke Abbey is not one of the great English country houses. It is a handsome baroque pile of anonymous authorship put up at the start of the eighteenth century and given neo-classical trimmings a hundred years later. It sits low in the seclusion of its deer park, grouped with church and stables and clumps of trees, in the middle of the populous north Midlands but withdrawn from them.

Inside, as if the outcome of a successful experiment with time, there is preserved fresh and in full the furnishings and hangings, the furniture specimen cabinets and bric-a-brac, the tacock and workshops, of a Victorian estate. It is that – the harmony of its surroundings and integrity of its interior – that makes Calke Abbey extra-special. The hyperbole of art historians and heritage buffs in extolling the place may owe something to the fact that they have only just been able to get into it. Even discounting the highest flights of enthusiasm Calke Abbey is without question worth preserving intact.

Its remarkable resistance to the march of time is explained by the recurrent reclusive tendency of the Harpur-Crewe family, which has owned the property since 1622. One baronet or another would settle into his vast estates to manage them in a benevolent and eccentric fashion, turning his back on society beyond the demesne, doing perhaps the duty of high sheriff of the county when his turn came round, or raising a troop of yeomanry in case of national emergency. Otherwise

he would be wrapt in solitary pursuits, of which 200 cases of stuffed birds are the only memorial.

The mansion being vast, a new occupant had no need to clear the clutter of his predecessor: he chose another room.

And so the accumulation and fossilization continued, far surpassing Eddington or Osborne. The later Harpur-Crewe were slow to embrace the amenities of modernity. The motor car came to Calke in 1949, the electric light in 1960, the arts of tax avoidance never.

And that is now the trouble. Vast capital taxes are being exacted on the death of the present owner's brother in 1981. Prudent administration would have reduced the liability, but would it have tolerated the inconvenience of keeping everything exactly as it was? Mr Harpur-Crewe has offered house, contents and park to the nation in lieu of part of the tax bill. The Treasury would accept it if the National Trust would in turn accept it. The trust cannot without funds for repair and endowment for maintenance, requirements put at £3.6 million and £4.4 million respectively. It has accordingly been proposed that a further 7 or 8,000 acres of "non-heritage" land be accepted by the Treasury in lieu of tax to act as capital sum and endowment.

That rational solution has been rejected. It is clear from the minister's speech in the adjournment debate on Monday night that the proposal was judged and fell according to the norms of

internal government financing. The tax would be foregone, there would be hypothecation (dread word) of revenue, there would have to be reallocation of funds from other programmes, a precedent would be set and a bad example.

In fact the precedent and example, if any, would be excellent. A country house deemed worthy to be preserved for the enrichment of our culture and the enjoyment of the public would be maintained from the rents of agricultural land dedicated to that purpose. That is the source from which such houses always were maintained, and what better source for the future? To be acquiring public assets of an agricultural kind while strenuously selling off public assets of an industrial and commercial kind might be thought to be slightly embarrassing. But another of the present Government's priorities is to arrest the decline in the number of agricultural tenancies. Ministers have a Bill in the Lords to that end. By rejecting the "in lieu" proposal for the Harpur-Crewe estate they are rejecting one sure way of keeping the bulk of that land in the rented sector and actually propelling it out.

The minister now urges the interested bodies to put their heads together and come up with an alternative scheme for securing Calke Abbey. One hopes that may be possible. But their heads have already spent a lot of time together without an alternative being found. The prospect is not very good. Meanwhile the best chance will very soon be lost.

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and in Ethiopia have also been neglected because the menfolk have been killed or taken for the army. Crops have also been destroyed and animals slaughtered. How, then, could the military regime feed the army from their own resources?

Even if food sent for relief reaches the people for whom it is intended, which is unlikely unless it is distributed by international agencies, it can only assist the military by releasing local supplies.

The violations of human rights in Ethiopia are carried out by the junta and its local commissioners. The West is as responsible for allowing this situation to continue as the Soviet Union, which has armed the junta to the teeth. It is sad that many people of good will who give to various appeals for Ethiopia may be seen as enemies by the very people they wish to help.

Yours faithfully,
MARY DINES,
48 Brownlow Road, N11.
November 26.

Oxford admissions

From Mrs G. M. Dines
Sir, Louis FitzGibbon (November 22) rightly pointed out that, in spite of Ethiopia's appalling record on human rights, there has been a deafening silence on the subject internationally. The Soviet Union and Ethiopia's other allies are hardly likely to speak out, but there is no doubt that western governments and agencies are equally to blame for this. The accepted wisdom is that, given sufficient incentives, the military junta will turn to the West and all criticism must be stifled.

The incentives that interest the junta are food and money, theoretically for drought victims, "returnees" and a host of other unfortunate, but in practice to enable them to feed their massive army. Today, in addition to army units all over Ethiopia, over 80,000 regular troops and 120,000 militia are being prepared for a new offensive against the Eritreans. Ironically, thousands of the latter were lured into "feeding centres" earlier this year and then taken away for military training.

In August I interviewed a number of Ethiopian officers who had been recently captured by the Eritreans. They gave me precise details of how food from the EEC was distributed to soldiers in the various fronts in Eritrea. They also admitted to consuming relief supplies from Canada, Denmark (powdered milk) and other sources.

Eritrea is now in the grip of a severe famine. Many farms there

I foresee the prospects of state school students at Oxford dropping still further and I hope Cambridge will maintain the examination option in the seventh term.

Yours faithfully,
G. MARY DANCE, Headmistress,
The Grammar School,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire.
November 24.

Prison terms of unequal value

From Mrs Sarah McCabe

Sir, The writer of your third leader, "The place of parole" (December 3) drew attention to the principles of punishment upon which the Home Secretary will rely in excluding from release on licence certain categories of offences.

These general principles, retribution for the specific offence committed and deterrence from similar offences which might be contemplated either by the offender himself or by others, are, of course, the basis of the judges' calculation of the appropriate length of imprisonment for the mischief done by each offence.

Until now this calculation was relatively simple; custom and occasional guidance from the appeal courts established that such and such an amount of fraud or theft, in such or such circumstances, would merit a sentence of, say, five years while violence or damage of a particular kind or degree would deserve the same.

It is in this area in particular that Lord Carrington will be able to make an outstanding contribution. His appointment as Secretary General is therefore not only welcome but just right in its timing. No one can accuse him of having illusions about communism, yet he is neither aggressive nor ideological in his approach. His calm pragmatism is just what is needed at this moment. Coupled with immense diplomatic skills and wide contacts it should enable him to reduce Atlantic differences and nudge the alliance into a more coherent approach to the Soviet Union. If successful this will also help to persuade doubting members of the public that Nato is not just a war-fighting machine but a political alliance dedicated to certain values. As Lord Carrington said in his Alastair Buchan Memorial lecture in April: "The West must be true to its own values. It is the Leninist tradition which is one of conflict, not cooperation. Our own tradition must be for the peaceful resolution of conflict through energetic and forceful dialogue."

Meanwhile Nato will have to tackle another major source of disquiet, which is the widespread feeling in Europe that it has lost sight of its obligation, regularly reaffirmed in Nato documents, to pursue security through political and diplomatic means as well as military. The two tracks of Nato policy – military preparedness and negotiation – are not confined to the decision on missile deployments. There is no

agreement on the completion date, or who is some other exponent of the infinitely variable art of conveying ances.

As for expense, whatever the documentary simplicity of a transaction, there can still be endless bickering of the sort mentioned above, with wear and tear, time and trouble, every bit as great as that, say, in a heart-rending fight over the custody of a child.

It is an occupational hazard of a solicitor to have chalked up against him, cumulatively, the delays of everybody else with whom he has to do – in conveying matters not specially numerous, perhaps, but in most departments of work multifarious.

It is not easy for him to explain this, or the difficulty of much of his work, short of conducting a course for his clients on the law and its practice – an unmeaning offering one feels.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe,
York.

December 7.

House Buyers Bill

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Retired from legal practice for some years now and with no financial interest in the outcome of the current conveying alteration, I nevertheless find it too much to sit silent in the face of certain voiced misconceptions.

As for delay, of course, anything which can speed up attention to the

searches and inquiries which have to be made of local authorities must help, but the delay in that respect are nothing to do with solicitors and the arrival on the scene of licensed or any other operators will not help in that.

Will not such an innovation have any effect on the other and more exasperating delays which are so frustrating to vendors and pur-

chasers – the likelihood of there being in any chain of transactions someone who fails to obtain the mortgage advance required, or who suddenly decides not to move home after all; or who cannot or will not synchronize where that is vital; or who, having received a bad survey report, has to look round all over

again; or who fails physically to

vacate on the completion date; or

who is some other exponent of the

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Yours faithfully,

J. E. HUMPHREY,

9 Offington Gardens,

Worthing,

West Sussex.

December 6.

estimated to be a quarter of the

prices paid on the world market by

British cruise operators.

These Soviet cruise ships were

banned from American ports by

President Carter, soon after the

Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

The Italian Government is also

limiting the number of Soviet

crises from Italian ports.

Should we not consider imposing

a ticket surcharge or boarding fee,

of perhaps £25 per person, on those

taking Soviet or Soviet-subsidized

crises? We might encourage other

countries to take similar action.

Meanwhile, I note that in recent

years there has been a substantial

Soviet incursion into the British

cruise ship market. This is done

through CTC, an entirely Soviet-

owned though British-registered

company. Since 1979, the number of

bed/night places offered by CTC to

British tourists has increased from

116,400 to 306,600 in 1983.

CTC's depreciation and insurance

costs are entirely covered by the

Soviet Union. The wages paid to the

crew are paid by the Soviet Union.

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Regan flies in with cold comfort for Europe

The irrepressible Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, flew into London yesterday on his way to Brussels, armed with a soothing mixture of American good intentions designed to calm passions inflamed by the sky-high dollar and massive US budget deficits.

Just as Mr Regan was telling us about Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was blasting American economic policy in the House of Commons.

Mr Peter Tappell, a stockbroker, MP, with Keynesian inclinations, provoked Mrs Thatcher into a blistering denunciation of US deficits after suggesting she might like to endorse the inflationary policies which appeared to have been highly successful in the US. "I would rather be in our position, which is sustainable, than theirs, which I believe will cause great trouble in 12 months," she declared.

Meanwhile, the pound steadied on foreign exchange markets after a flurry of selling on Tuesday and yesterday morning ending the day 5 points down at a new closing low of £1.4415. Its effective index lost 0.4% to 82.5, reflecting earlier losses against European currencies.

Mr Regan, who called on the Prime Minister last night, may have been glad to slip next door to enjoy the hospitality of Mr Nigel Lawson. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, though not a man renowned for pulling his punches, is unlikely to have gone in for the kind of tongue-lashing of which Mrs Thatcher earlier indulged in.

Mr Regan said yesterday that it was often forgotten that state and local governments in the US were running big surpluses — about \$65 billion a year — which offset the impact of the \$200 billion federal deficit on capital markets.

This is true enough. But figures for central and local government deficits calculated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development still show the US running the biggest budget gap of the five largest industrial economies.

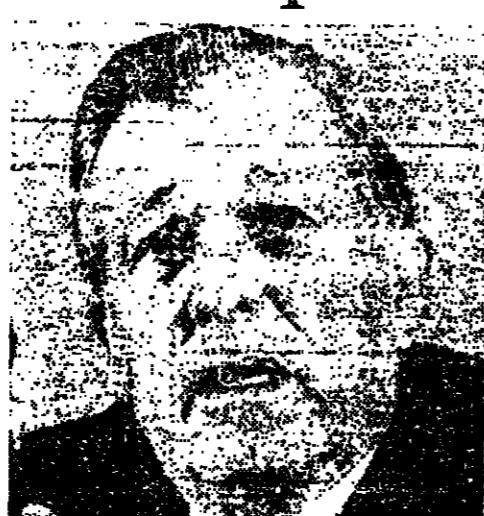
Going for brokers Greenwell

W Greenwell is expected today to become the fifth leading British stockbroker to announce that outside interests have bought a large stake in its business.

Senior partners Mr Richard Lawson and Mr Gordon Pepper declined to say anything last night but lesser members of the firm was told enough to say: "I've been told there is no statement tonight. There may be something in the morning."

A company with a strong attachment to Greenwell is Mercantile House, which the energetic and visionary Mr John Barksdale has developed from humble money broking into a big broking and fund management group with a powerful presence in London and New York.

It is an obvious candidate for three reasons: Mr Philip Greenwell, the former senior partner who guided the family firm to a place in stockbroking's top six is on the board; the importance of dealing capacity in Mr Barksdale's planning for Mercantile House's future as an integrated financial services group; and the parallel thinking already evinced by Exco, which has much in common with Mercantile House. Exco sought to buy an interest in brokers Wood Mackenzie, which, like



Regan: little hope of cutting budget deficits

Mr Regan held out little hope of cutting budget deficits next year, with the election campaign well underway. The US, he said, was "a nation of selfish interests". But he accepted that something would have to be done for future years, laying the emphasis squarely on the need to cut federal spending and especially social security entitlement programmes.

While undoubtedly realistic, this is cold comfort for Europe. Even if President Reagan runs again and wins, he may not have Congress on his side.

Mr Regan topped his cocktail with a dash of hemlock. The federal government, he said, had no intention of laying down the law on the vexed issue of unitary taxation unless the special commission to examine the matter, now expected to report in late February, failed to come up with an agreeable solution.

This is not what the European and Japanese governments, who believe the commission — heavily weighted towards state interests — is simply an excuse to put off decisions until the elections are over, want to hear. No doubt EEC ministers will say so forcibly to Mr Regan today.

Brooke Bond fights off critics

Eagle's VG share offer flops as Allianz talks go on

By Jeremy Warner

Representatives of Allianz Versicherungen, the West German insurance company, yesterday met with Eagle Star directors in an attempt to agree a basis for an agreed takeover bid.

Allianz has already promised to top a £914m offer for Eagle Star, Britain's sixth largest insurer, made by BAT Industries but has so far been repeatedly spurned by Eagle Star board which has made clear its preference for BAT.

The Eagle Star board suffered an embarrassment last night when it was disclosed that the offer for sale by tender of shares in the group's high-technology offshoot, VG Instruments, had been a resounding flop.

Of the 12.5 million shares on offer, only about half were applied for. At the minimum tender price of 130p a share, VG, is valued at £65m. It is the third tender offer to be undersubscribed within two weeks.

The price of Eagle Star shares in the stock market rose to 714p at one stage yesterday but closed 2p up on the day at 709p.

This compares with BAT's last offer of 660p a share and the promise, normally

regarding a formal offer in British mergers, and one, who said he was in favour of the bid

with the West German company would be acrimonious in any way.

Reports that the Allianz supervisory board was split at a meeting in Munich two weeks ago on whether to continue the takeover battle or bow out and take substantial profits on its existing 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star were dismissed by Allianz.

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APPOINTMENTS

General manager at Halifax

Halifax Building Society: Mr David Gilchrist, previously assistant general manager, has become a general manager. He remains responsible for economic and corporate planning. Mr Peter Wood, previous chief inspector, has joined the executive as a secretary and will undertake responsibilities concerning the mortgage and insurance area.

British Home Stores: From January 1, Mr D. P. Cassidy and Mr J. F. Power, who are both directors, to be assistant managing directors. Jointly with Mr N. T. Griffin, Mr Cassidy will have responsibility for sales and for the food and restaurant business and Mr Power responsibility for merchandise and finance. Mr C. B. Williams, a divisional director, will be appointed director, store operations.

Morgan Grealish Property Services: Mr Robert Hannington has been made a director to be responsible for property investment acquisition in the UK and US.

London and Scottish Marine Oil: Sir David Nicolson is now a non-executive director.

Phillips Petroleum: Mr W. W. Allen, operations manager, Ivory Coast Region, will be promoted to chairman and managing director, Phillips Petroleum UK on January 1. W. Vinten Limited: Mr G. E. Jones becomes managing director of the company, a subsidiary of Vinten Group, from January 3, 1984.

C & K Consulting Group: Mrs Rosemary Brown has been appointed director of business development.

TSB England and Wales: Mr Ken Millichap, a senior partner with Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co, accountants, has been made deputy chairman.

BUPA: Mr R. M. Graham, deputy chief executive, will be acting chief executive from January 1 and will succeed Mr D. V. Damerell as chief executive on the latter's retirement next year.

Aircains Group: Mr Michael Narracott is now chief executive. Mr David Proudfit has retired as managing director and has been made a deputy chairman.

Graham Searjeant examines the implications of this week's Nedd meeting

Breaking the unemployment impasse

In an unwanted outbreak of chumminess, Government, CBI and CBI all agreed with Mr John Cassells, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, that this week's long-heralded Nedd meeting on the future for jobs was one of the most constructive on record.

As you would expect in such an atmosphere of accord, none of the parties made any suggestions that are likely to make a rapid dent in Britain's three million recorded unemployment total.

The Government's paper, while making a sober assessment of where new jobs might come from and what might be done to facilitate the process, rested its case on the ability of its broad economic strategy to generate jobs in the long-term by improving the productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and thus growth of the British economy in a sound and stable financial environment.

"Jobs may be lost in the industries experiencing the greatest productivity advance", it concedes. But they will be "gained elsewhere in the economy as the higher incomes that come from higher productivity are spent", mainly in the service sector.

The TUC, in its paper, while doubting some of the Government's flirtations with small business and self-employment, came to similar conclusions, though noting, with its different strategy, that "a return to sustainable high growth is an essential precondition for the success of industrial and other supply-side policies and thus for a return to higher levels of employment".

A precondition it may be, but not necessarily a sufficient condition. There are many explanations for Britain's sudden, internationally long and recalculating job queues. According to taste, you can cite the inevitable adjustment of the exchange rate to North Sea oil and its necessary effect on manufacturing; the monetarist combination of high interest and exchange rates that knocked out more capacity than the trade cycle justified; structural changes to adjust to new technologies abroad and now at home or the long-delayed shake-out of labour

Unemployment has prevented essential tax cuts

ment has now become an economic problem in its own right, which, whatever the strategic view, undermines the recovery of the economy as a whole.

At one level, unemployment has created problems of income distribution. Britain still has a slightly higher proportion of its population working than most

required to achieve the once-and-for-all leap in productivity needed to put Britain back in the hunt.

Whichever explanation is preferred, neither common sense, nor the evidence suggests that a return to sustainable economic growth will do more than allow Britain to return to a normal path of prosperity and job creation.

That would make little impact on the extra, non-cyclical unemployment, perhaps 1.5 to 2 million, souls, save on the longest perspectives of economic equilibrium.

In essence, what the three differing parties to Nedd agreed was that Britain's high unemployment was but a feature, however unacceptable, of general economic problems, which could be cured only by the working of overall economic strategy even though special attention should be given to smoothing the path of new jobs.

To government, which points to American success in creating jobs, this special attention is mainly a matter of easing rigidities in the labour market and labour mobility to promote rapid adjustment, and partly a cause for extra efforts to help train school leavers and promote new ventures.

To the unions it is predictably a matter of the Government committing itself to output growth through its economic strategy and hence generating sufficient confidence about future demand among industrialists to persuade them to invest.

But the message is essentially the same in denying that unemployment is a separate issue from the future prosperity of the economy. Yet unemploy-

EMPLOYEES IN EMPLOYMENT, GB, 1973, 1979 AND 1983

	Employees		Change in employment			
	June 1973	June 1979	June 1983	Number (000s)	Rate	
All industries and services	22,180	22,590	20,460	-1,720	-0.8	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	420	380	340	-50	-1.3	
Mining and quarrying	380	350	310	-50	-1.3	
Manufacturing	7,880	7,570	5,570	-2,200	-25.5	
Construction	1,240	1,250	970	-370	-32	
Gas, electricity and water	340	340	320	-20	-0.4	
Service industries	12,050	13,240	13,150	+1,090	+0.9	

Source: Employment Gazette

Note: The 1983 figures include an allowance for the probable understatement of the level of employment, particularly in the service industries, in the basic series.

GROWTH OF SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, GB, 1973-81

	Employment in June 1981 (employees and self-employed) (millions)		Change 1973-81 (millions)	
	of which			
All services	14.4		+1.2	
Transport and communications	1.5		-	
Domestic trades	3.2		-	
Insurance, banking, finance and business services	1.4		+0.3	
Professional and scientific services	3.3		+0.5	
Miscellaneous services	2.5		+0.4	
Public administration	1.5		-	

Source: Employment Gazette

other EEC countries (which on average enjoy a higher standard of living) and much more than Japan, which also enjoys more income per head.

In principle, it would be a boon to achieve greater prosperity without so many of us having to work. But the pattern of job losses has left whole cities and regions with inadequate spending power and, more particularly, millions of individual families as a new poor class.

The need to sustain those left out of our lopsided dash for prosperity has created a more pressing problem of state finances. The excess unemployment alone drains an annual £10 billion or so from the fisc, equivalent to 10p on income tax.

This has prevented tax cuts, an essential part of the Government's supply-side strategy; it has required emergency cuts in public investment (part of the TUC's); and it has focused longer term public spending pressure on health and education, precisely those parts of the public sector which, if the American pattern is to be followed, should be providing growth areas for activity and jobs.

Short-term crash programme is needed

induce the unemployed to become self-employed and it can help them to leave the labour force altogether, via tax incentives or the traditional standby of emigrating.

There are already a number of encouraging signs. Treasury ministers are now firmly on the defensive over public investment and seem in the process of a change of attitude.

The privatisation programme, allied to competition measures, is gradually freeing state monopolies from the public borrowing trap. The Youth Training Scheme and wider vocational education initiatives to stanch the flow of unemployables are impressive.

The National Insurance Surcharge is on the way out. Although little thought has yet been given to the more significant burden of mainstream employers' contributions.

Small business promotion is having its effect as the birth rate of new companies starts to outpace the catastrophic death rate.

Self-employment, once down to 1.8 million, has crept up above 2 million though it is still a weak feature of the economy, at about 8 per cent of the population compared with 12.5 per cent for the EEC as a whole or 15 per cent including family workers.

Many married women workers, more willing to work than their continental counterparts, have been forced to switch to part-time jobs. The proportion of British families with both spouses in the labour market remains high, but we may be moving to more flexible family combinations or employment, part-time work and self-employment.

On a long perspective, all this may have some effect. But it does not offer any real prospect of government being able to break out of the fiscal trap brought by unemployment. This is not simply a matter of welfare costs and tax losses. Palliative youth training schemes, regional aid, investment incentives all cost billions a year and seem destined to swell the public spending total indefinitely.

Quite apart from ruling out more desirable public spending or tax cuts, this prevents government from sorting out taxes on the low-paid. The poverty trap is now recognized as a big deterrent to employment and as a model employer. As the Government's Nedd paper coyly puts it, the economic strategy is to "conditions for lower taxes and interest rates". But the grind of unemployment costs is stopping the Chancellor from realizing the benefits.

Industrial notebook

Why not the Nobel prize for business?

As a sideshow to tomorrow's Nobel award ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo, the Nobel Foundation has declared today The Day of the Nobel Companies.

There is to be a meeting in Oslo this afternoon of the representatives of a dozen or more concerns which, like Dynamit Nobel, Wiener Guhr of Austria, were founded by the explosives magnate, or like Sweden's own AB Bofors, once belonged to him. In between, there is our own ICI, whose chairman, Mr John Harvey-Jones will be present, no doubt wearing one of his direct ties. ICI was founded, after the Swede's death, in a merger instigated by Nobel's British company which, like ICI today, was the world's biggest maker of industrial explosives.

Directing proceedings is the deputy chairman of the Nobel Foundation, Dr Tore Brevik, vice-chairman of Svenska Handelsbanken. It is a meeting at which the "Nobel Heritage" will be discussed gravely but, since it is a private gathering only the participants will emerge say the wiser. The important thing about this concave, however, is that it is taking place at all.

Alfred Nobel is known as a philanthropist and is remembered, albeit imperfectly, as the inventor of dynamite. In view of the bloody uses to which this and his other explosive inventions subsequently were put, the Nobel Foundation skirts gingerly around its benefactor's industrial achievements.

This is the 150th anniversary of his birth, in what is now central Stockholm. What better year to make a modest proposal that there be a huge Nobel prize for business or commercial innovation? This would commemorate Nobel's achievements in industrial organization and as a model employer. It might also encourage stronger links between public spirit and business enterprise.

Computers, microchips, pharmaceuticals, same your own idea - all have potential for good and ill, as did Nobel's explosives. He tamed nitroglycerine, the biggest advance in blasting since gunpowder.

Ross Davies



Other presents pale beside it.

NOTHING ELSE MEASURES UP TO JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL



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Counties may have to bowl at least 117 overs a day in championship matches

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Among several significant recommendations to be put to the Test and County Cricket Board at their statutory winter meeting, to be held at Lord's next Tuesday, is one which, if accepted, will require a minimum of 117 overs to be bowled in a full day's championship cricket.

Another attempt is to be made at reaching an agreement whereby no county would be allowed to include more than one "overseas" player after the end of the 1983 season; and, sadly, the limitation of bouncers in county cricket to one an over is likely to be abandoned.

The TCCB have fought more or less a lone battle against excessive use of the bouncer, in modern cricket, especially when bowled from round the wicket. When, prior to meeting West Indies, Australia and Pakistan, England have suggested that bouncers should be restricted to one per over, they have invariably been knocked back. Now they themselves have given up the ghost. It will be left again to the umpires to decide what constitutes "an attempt to intimidate the striker", and in this they have a poor record.

Imran cleared to play in fourth Test

Sydney (Reuter) - The injured Pakistan captain Imran Khan has been cleared by an orthopaedic surgeon to play in the fourth Test against Australia, starting in Melbourne on December 26.

Imran has been unable to play because of a fractured scaphoid in his right wrist, which arrived in Australia in October, but a leading Sydney specialist said yesterday that the latest X-ray examination of the Pakistani captain's leg showed he had made good progress. He would be able to resume playing after the third Test, which was due to start today in Adelaide.

After leaving the surgery, Imran said: "It is a great weight off my mind. I wasn't hoping for miracles but just for the best. But bowling immediately for me is out of the question. However, I would like to bowl in the Melbourne Test, and then the Sydney Test, and the one-day internationals later."

Imran said he was thinking of getting some practice in Hobart in Pakistan's match against Tasmania from December 16 to 19.

"But I must be careful and give the shirt the maximum time in between to be sure of playing on December 26," he said.

Bob Willis, the England captain, is known to think that the limit of one an over is detrimental to English batsmanship. When, in Australia and West Indies, anything up to four overs are being bowled, he considers that the England players are neither temperamentally nor technically prepared for it. "If you can't beat them, join them", that is what it seems to have come to, to the delight no doubt of all young, strong and aggressive fast bowlers, not to mention the manufacturers of helmets and splints.

In recent years the hours of play in championship cricket have been from 11.0 until 6.30. Over the course of a season county sides have been fined for not averaging 19 overs an hour, or 123.5 overs in a full six and a half day. Many of them have either settled for the fine or looked for opportunities of boosting their average in, for example, the last two hours of a match when a draw has become inevitable.

The most extreme example of this was at Chelmsford in August when Essex rattled through 57 overs in 80 mins. In future, players may have to stay on the field, working overtime as it were, to complete the 117 overs required of them. Due allowances would be made, of course, for unscheduled stoppages.

The figure of 117 is calculated on 18 overs to the hour,

which is still a concession to the slow coaches. In 1930 in the Lord's Test between England and Australia, the average for the match was 22 to the hour; in the Lord's Test of 1946, between England and India, it was 23. By 1980, when West Indies were bowling at the Oval, it had sunk to just over 12. In next year's Test matches in England, West Indies are to be asked to agree to 96 overs in the day.

The latest proposal for trimming "overseas" players to one per county side and for this to be implemented sooner rather than later, sets the end of the 1983 season as a deadline.

After that no county could play more than one of them. Least well suited by this would be Somerset, who have two such players - very considerable ones, too, in Garner and Richards - under contract until the end of 1986. For one reason and another Tuesday's meeting seems unlikely to be a short

one.

The still feels that prize money should be higher. Yesterday, she said: "The prize money at Wimbledon and the US Open is pathetic."

Miss Navratilova said the players should band together to try to get more money and that more money should come back into the game. "I think we get \$75,000 from the US Tennis Association for the improvement of women's tennis but we get nothing from Wimbledon or anybody else."

Miss Navratilova is chasing the third leg of the Grand Slam after winning Wimbledon and the US Open. If she wins the Australian title here and the 1984 French Open she will earn a special bonus of \$1m. Only two other women have won

Wimbledon

four "grand slam" events in succession.

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Request by Syria for Soviet troops

Continued from page 1

attackers - Shia Muslims in the slums of Haysa Selim and Druze militiamen in the mountains to the east - with tank rounds and Dragon anti-tank missiles.

At least two buildings apparently used by snipers were destroyed by Marine gunfire, and one report said that a group of Shia Muslim militiamen later raised a white flag to stop the fighting.

Meanwhile in Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, Palestinian officials loyal to Mr Yassir Arafat implied that French and Italian warships may escort the four Greek vessels that are to evacuate up to 4,000 PLO guerrillas from the city. The Palestinians will sail under a United Nations flag but now fear that the Israelis will try to intercept the little fleet after the PLO's claim of responsibility for the bombing of a bus in Jerusalem this week in which four civilians, including two children, were killed.

US to lift Argentine arms ban

Continued from page 1

Nato ministerial council session in Brussels.

Arms embargoes were imposed on both Argentina and Chile during the Carter Administration because of the serious human rights violations taking place in both countries.

Although Congress approved a request by the Reagan Administration in 1981 for the arms embargo on Argentina to be lifted, this was done on condition that the President certified that the Buenos Aires Government was making progress in human rights.

The State Department cited seven areas where there had been improvement in human rights in Argentina, including the holding of free elections, release of political prisoners, lifting of restriction of political parties, trades unions and the press and an ending of the state of siege.

But he said one major human rights issue still to be resolved involved Argentina's failure to account for the thousands of people who disappeared during the "dirty war" under earlier military dictatorships.

Deserted village mourns vanishing bus

Even now the devastation is begun, And half the business of destruction done; Even now, methinks, as pondering here I stand, I see the rural virtues leave the land.

The Deserted Village by Oliver Goldsmith

By Michael Horswell

The roses will bloom as usual next summer in cottage gardens in the Norfolk village of Swanton Morley but if the Council for the Protection of Rural England is right, more as a memorial than a demonstration of the virtues of country life.

The village (population about 1,500), from which Abraham Lincoln's ancestors emigrated to America in 1637, is, according to many of its inhabitants as well as the CPRE, facing its demise as a thriving community.

Swanton Morley is one of 72 Norfolk villages threatened with losing its bus service, a vital link to the market town of Dereham, four miles away, which provides shops, doctors, a hospital and schooling for its country cousins.

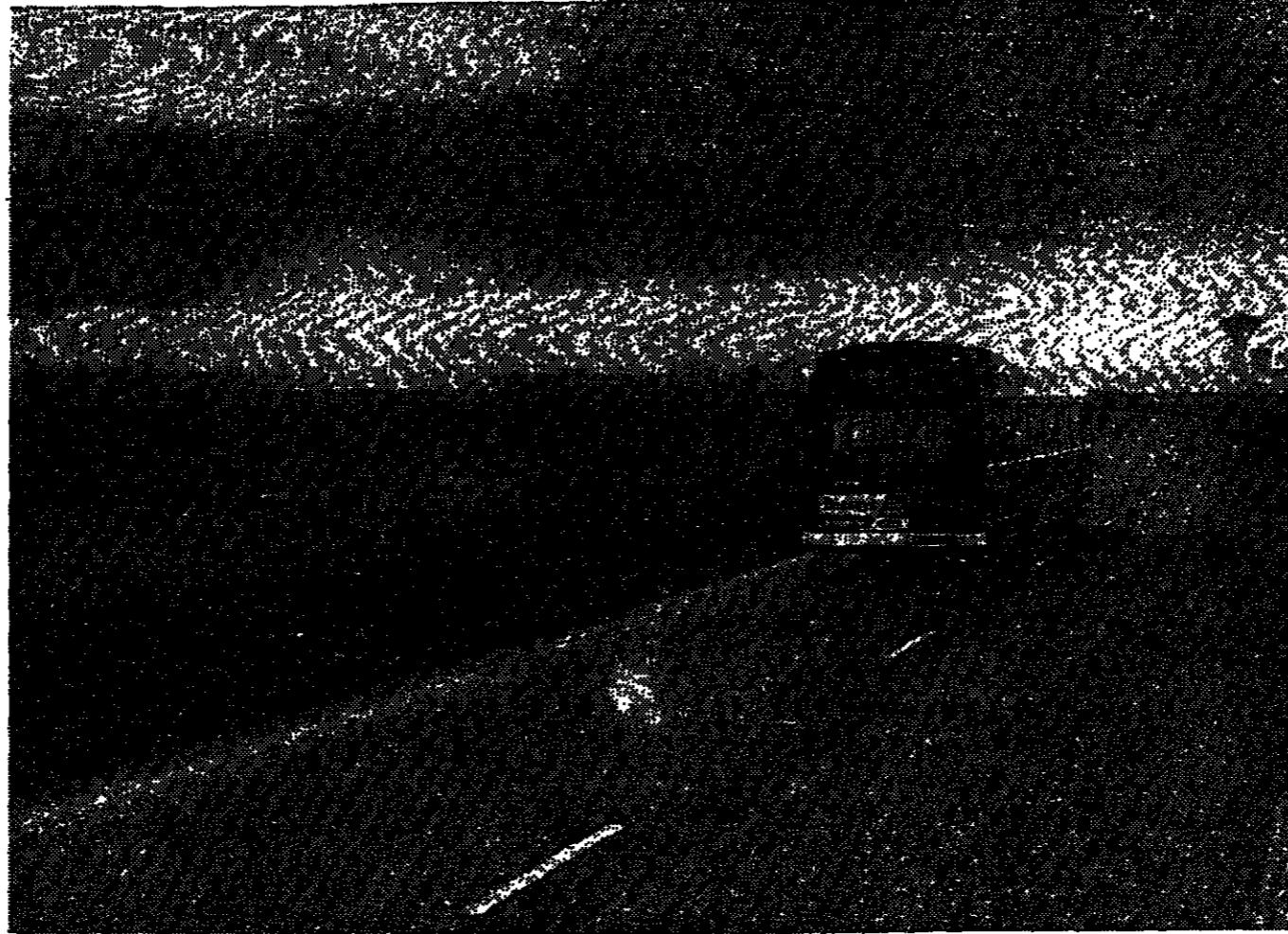
About a third of the villagers have no car and more than half have only limited access to one (when the breadwinner is not using it to drive to work), so that many people depend on the bus's five daily trips to Dereham and weekly service to Norwich.

Next week Norfolk county council is expected to ratify its transportation sub-committee's decision to limit its subsidy to the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company to £500,000 a year. Eastern Counties says it needs £1.3m to maintain present services and adds that as well as the 72 villages losing their buses, another 50 will be deprived of community services, with the loss of 85 jobs in all.

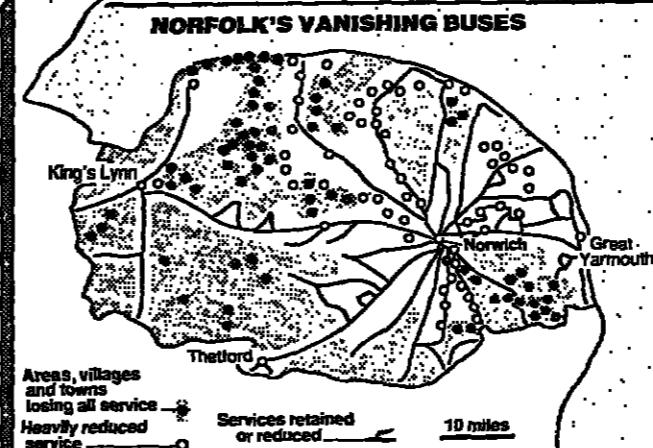
Council chiefs say they hope private operators and community buses will fill some of the gaps, but Mr Dawson Williams, general manager of Eastern Counties, dismisses this as a forlorn hope.

He said: "Previous cuts in passenger miles have not been taken over by private operators and neither would they this time. We cannot keep up loss-making services, so communities will find themselves deprived and isolated."

A meeting at the House of Commons between Eastern Counties executives and Norfolk's eight Conservative MPs earlier this week, failed to inspire any promises of parliamentary support, so the last bus to Swanton Morley will arrive at the village Post Office



Disappearing into the sunset: the fated bus from Swanton Morley to Norwich (above) and Mrs Louise Battle (left), who is worrying about having to use her bicycle



small shops, two public houses and a primary school, is probably facing its greatest crisis since modern farming techniques deprived many of its menfolk of their labour in the fields.

Villagers want to know why

Norfolk is prepared to spend only £1.44 per person a year on transport subsidies, compared with a national average of £3.15.

But Mr Ian Corrie, the county surveyor, said last night: "I should not have thought our subsidies are out of line with our rural neighbours. We are concerned that some villages will be isolated, but we believe there is substantial scope for small private operators and unconventional services like social car schemes."

(Photographs: Brian Harris)

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, Colonel in Chief, Royal Signals, attends a briefing at the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, 10.

New exhibitions

French prints and drawings, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 8).

Recent works by Gerald Gadd: Landscapes, Geoffrey Huband: Maritime, Frances Cripwell and

Moira Williams: Flora and fauna, Gallery 45, 45/46 Bridge Street, Hereford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30; closed Sun (ends Dec 24).

Music

Concert by the Farnaby Brass Ensemble, West Oxfordshire Technical College, Witney, Oxfordshire; Friday by Margaret Campbell (flute), Kelso High School, Kelso, 7.45.

Concert by the students from the Royal College of Music, North Keesteven Music Club, Usher Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln, 7.30.

General

Southern County Craft Market, the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, 10 to 4.

Seventh Annual Edinburgh Winter Antiques Fair, Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 11 to 8, tomorrow 11 to 5.

Exhibitions in progress

Picture Derby: photographs of Derby from 1900 to 1983, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Dec 30).

Costume Design by Clive Hicks Jenkins for the New Theatre production of the Pantomime *Humpty Dumpty*, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent; Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.40 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4).

Sainsbury's Images for Today: Winners of competition, British Council, 10th Floor, 101 New Bond Street, London, 10 to 5, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).

Works by Welsh artists, Oriel Welsh Arts Council Gallery, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).

A collection for Christmas - original and rare work by English artists and craftsmen (inc. special toys); Falcon House Gallery, Swan Street, Bedford, Suffolk; Tues to Sat 10 to 3.30, Sun 2 to 6, closed Mon (ends Jan 29).

Mark's and Spencer have reduced the price of their chicken packs - drumsticks, thighs and breasts - by 10 pence a lb. Their fresh and frozen turkeys are 89 pence a lb. They also have 89p a lb. joints of turkey, stuffed with fresh chestnuts, weighing 3lb-54lb, for £1.89 a lb. Deli workers have duck at 74 pence a pound for birds up to 4lb 15oz and 78 pence a pound for heavier birds. They also have fresh turkeys and geese and customers are advised to order now for Christmas.

The Post Office recommends Saturday, December 17 as the last posting date for second class mail and parcels, and Tuesday, December 20 for first class. Postage will be increased to maintain subscribers that remain to Christchurch to Australia, New Zealand, Hongkong and other countries in the Far East and the Pacific will only be on the cheaper rate between midnight and 7am and between 3pm and 8pm, when a 10-minute call will cost £7.44. At all other times the standard rate applies.

Solutions of Puzzle No 16,304

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Milton, London, 1608; Johann Whackelmann, art historian, Stendal, Germany, 1717; George Grossmith, comedian, singer and author, with Weedon Grossmith, of *Diary of a Nobody*, London, 1847; Joseph Staln (new style Dec 21), Gori, Georgia, Transcaucasia, 1879.

Deaths: John Milton, London, 1674; Wm. Dampier, English explorer, 1673; John Wesley, Methodist founder, 1791; George Eliot, novelist, 1880; Leo Tolstoy, novelist, 1910; G. K. Chesterton, novelist, 1936; Agatha Christie, novelist, 1976; John Betjeman, poet, 1984.

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Food prices

Over the past 5 years consumption of exotic fruit and vegetables has risen enormously, according to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau. Since 1978 imports of avocados have risen by 89 per cent, mangoes by 115 per cent and pawpaws by 299 per cent.

Prices have thus gone down generally: avocados 25-50p each, kiwi fruit 20-25p, mangoes 70p-21, small pineapples 50-60p. Sharpen fruit from Israel, a non-ostentatious version of the premium fruit, can be eaten with skin still on 20-26p each. Spanish almeria grapes, at 34-40p a lb, are cheapest of the four varieties around. Kumquats from Morocco and Carmel, a grape-size citrus fruit, are £1.50-£2.00 a lb. Jerusalem artichokes at 30-40p a lb, aubergines from 50-60p a lb, all good buys.

Beef prices remain steady - with topside, silverside and thick flank £1.90-£2.30 a lb and a homeless brisket £1.32-£1.65 a lb. Pork prices are similar to last week: boneless shoulder 92p-£1.30 and loin chops £1.18-£1.39 a lb. Although lamb prices are higher this week as supplies are reduced, they are cheaper than at this time last year. Whole legs range from £1.48-£1.60 a lb. Whole shoulders, at £1.50-£1.60 a lb and loin chops £1.34-£1.58.

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Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Roads

Midlands: A14: Lane closures on Huntington bypass. A45: Roadworks on Coventry - Daventry road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire. A47: Temporary signals at eastern end of Dereham bypass.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at junction 32 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant). A44: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repair between junction 21 and junction 22 across the Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. A46: Traffic restrictions on West Harptree - Churchill road at Burrrington Combe.

North: A628: Temporary signals at Woodhead, north-east of Glossop, Derbyshire. A19: One-way traffic westbound at Mandale interchange, Middleborough, Haythorpe Drive to Levick Crescent diversion. A1: Filton bypass on River Coquet Bridge, Northumberland, closes northbound; only one lane open with temporary traffic signs.

Central: A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Peebles. A94: Single-lane traffic in Coupar Angus. A7: Single-lane traffic with lights at junction with A699, south side of Selkirk.

Information supplied by AA

Top films

Top box office films in London:

1 *Control*

2 *Rear Window*

3 *La Traviata*

4 *Videodrome*

5 *Octopussy*

6 *Educating Rita*

7 *Rebel*

8 *Betrayed*

9 *Cujo*

10 *Finally Sunday!*

Top five in the provinces:

1 *Star Chamber*

2 *Videodrome*

3 *War Games*

4 *Death Kramer vs. Kramer*

5 *Educating Rita*

Compiled by Screen International

Weather

A depression will cross Northern England overnight with a cold, showery north-easterly airstream becoming established over the United Kingdom.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, England, East Anglia: Mainly cloudy, rain dying out, bright intervals with showers turning to snow later; wind N fresh becoming strong; max temp 5C to 7C (43-45F).

Central S, SW, central N England, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Showers becoming wintry later, sunny periods developing; wind NW to N moderate becoming fresh; max temp 6C to 8C (43-46F).

N Wales, SW, central N Wales, E, W Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Showers becoming wintry later, sunny periods developing; wind NW to N moderate becoming fresh; max temp 6C to 8C (43-46F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Some bright intervals, snow showers, prolonged at times with drifting; wind NE strong to gale; max temp 2C to 3C (36-37F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Show showers on Saturday dying out gradually; further outbreaks of sleet or snow spreading from W on Sunday. Remaining cold generally.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind SW veering NW strong or gale; sea rough or very rough. Straits of Dover, English Channel (Ex) SW wind strong or gale; sea very rough. North Sea: Wind SW decreasing fresh; sea very rough. North Sea: Wind SW strong; sea moderate to very rough.

Information supplied by AA

High tides

TODAY